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CONTENTS

23 October 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council Chiefs of Staff Meet *[WAKH]* 1
  Discuss Joint GCC Force *[WAKH]* 1
  End Second Session *[WAKH]* 1
  Recommend Joint Force *[Muscat Radio]* 1
Mohamed Aamou Nominated AMU Secretary General *[Tunis Radio]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Officials Comment on Tehran Conference on Palestine 1
  Mohtashemi Lists Conference Goals *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
  Speakers Vow To 'Resist Zionism' *[Tehran Radio]* 2
  Junblatt Urges 'Long-Term Plan' *[VOM]* 3
  Bid for Intifadah Fund Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 3
  Yazdi—'Practical Support' Needed *[Tehran Radio]* 4
  Velayati—Israel 'Doomed' *[IRNA]* 4
  PFLP-GC's Jibril on Peace Delegation *[Beirut Radio]* 5
  Speakers View Intifadah *[IRNA]* 5
  Groups Discuss Intifadah Support *[IRNA]* 6
  Muslim Institute Head Speaks *[IRNA]* 6
  Hizballah Leader Vows To Sabotage Conference *[VOL]* 7
  Third General Session Meets *[Tehran Radio]* 7
  Fatah Uprising Leader Speaks *[IRNA]* 7
  Friday Prayers Leader Speaks *[Tehran Radio]* 7
  Telegram to UN Sent *[Tehran Radio]* 8
  Karrubi Gives Closing Speech *[IRNA]* 8
  Declaration Issued *[Tehran International]* 9
Velayati Holds Sideline Meetings With Officials 11
  Meets Algerian Parliament Speaker *[Tehran Radio]* 11
  Talks With Egypt's Mashhur *[IRNA]* 12
  Meets Lebanon's Fadlallah, Others *[IRNA]* 12
  Confers With Syrian Delegates *[Damascus Radio]* 12
  More on Meeting With Syrians *[IRNA]* 12

Palestinian Affairs

Profiles of Delegates to Madrid Talks Given *[AFP]* 12
'Arafat: Any Palestinian at Talks Represents PLO *[Paris Radio]* 13
'Abd-Rabbuh on Paris Talks, Peace Conference *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 14
PLO Seeks Egyptian Experts' Assistance, Advice *[AL-BAYAN 21 Oct]* 15
PFLP, DFLP Figures Discuss Peace Talks *[Algiers TV]* 15
  Hawatimah on PLO 'Participation' *[Algiers TV]* 15

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Socialist Forces Withdraws Confidence in Government *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Court Rejects Release of Islamic Detainees *[Algiers Radio]* 18

Islamic Front Spokesman on Election Strategy *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Oct]* 18
Official Views Implementation of IMF Agreement *[APS]* 18
Japanese Bank Grants $300 Million in Loans *[Algiers Radio]* 19

Egypt

Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 19
  Begins Talks With Musa *[MENA]* 19
  Meets With President Mubarak *[MENA]* 19
  Musa, Pankin Brief Media *[MENA]* 19
  Pankin Ends Visit, Departs *[MENA]* 20
Musa Meets U.S., USSR Envoys on Conference *[MENA]* 20
  Meets With PLO's Qaddumi *[MENA]* 20
Al-Asad Calls Mubarak, Discusses Arab Issues *[Cairo Radio]* 20
Mubarak Notes Need for Arab Coordination *[MENA]* 20
Mubarak Denies Possible Cabinet Reshuffle *[MENA]* 20

Libya

Foreign Liaison Bureau Condemns Prague Hijacking *[JANA]* 20
Al-Qadhdhafi Gives Anniversary Address *[Tripoli Radio]* 20

Mauritania

'Observer' Role in Peace Conference Accepted *[AFP]* 26
Opposition Party Holds First Rally in Nouakchott *[Libreville Radio]* 26

Sudan

President Denies Sentences Passed on Coup Suspects *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Oct]* 27
Al-Bashir Opens 'National Strategy Conference' *[Omdurman Radio]* 27
Army-Police Forces Kill Rebel Leader, Arrest 60 *[Omdurman Radio]* 27
SPLA's Garang Vows To Spread War to North *[SPLA Radio]* 28
1,000 Refugees Flee SPLA Factional Fighting *[AFP]* 29
Ummah Party Leader—No Chance for Reconciliation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Oct]* 29
Escaped Military Officer Alleges 'Inhuman' Treatment *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Oct]* 30
Minister on 'Regrettable' Recall of Tunisia Envoy *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Oct]* 31
Al-Bashir Confirms Efforts To Improve Egypt Ties *[Omdurman Radio]* 31
Iraq, Sudan Sign Oil Industry Development Accord *[SUNA]* 31

Tunisia

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Tunis 19 Oct *[Tunis Radio]* 32
Amnesty Report Says Fundamentalists Tortured *[Paris International]* 32

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Message From Rafsanjani *[SPA]* 33
  Meets Kuwaiti Minister, Speaks *[SPA]* 33
  Meets Nawaz Sharif in Jeddah *[Islamabad Radio]* 34

Yemen

Al-Iriyani on Relations With Gulf States, U.S. *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Oct]* 35

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Addresses Award Ceremony *[Baghdad Radio]* 36

    'Aziz Addresses Ceremony *[Baghdad Radio]* ... 37
    Saddam Concludes Ceremony *[Baghdad Radio]* ... 38
    Saddam Decorates 'Heroic Men' *[INA]* ... 39
Delegation Leaves for Euro-Arab Dialogue *[INA]* ... 40

ISRAEL

Shamir Addresses European Parliament ... 41
    Notes Four Prerequisites for Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 41
    Rebukes Western PLO Supporters *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 41
    Rejects Contact With Advisory Group *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 42
Shamir—PLO 'Losing Importance' *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 42
Shamir Returns; To Meet Arens, Levi on Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 42
Palestinian Delegation, Advisory Council Named *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 42
    Team To Receive Orders 'From Outside' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 43
    Communists Drop Opposition *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 43
Palestinian List Acceptable 'On the Surface' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 43
    No Security Objections *['AL HAMISHMAR 23 Oct]* ... 44
Shamir Aide on Talks Venue, PLO Participation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 44
Official on Bilateral Talks, Advisory Committee *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
Arens Views Nuclear Issue, Iraq Overflight *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
Four New Settlements Planned for Golan Heights *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 46
Ministry Finances Security of Homes in Old City *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 46
Immigrant Settlement in Territories Detailed *[DAVAR 18 Oct]* ... 46
Jerusalem Mayor on Silwan Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 46
Lubrani: Efforts on Securing Release of Navigator *[HA'ARETZ 22 Oct]* ... 47
Labor Paper on 'Palestinian Self-Determination' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 47
    Likud Aide Condemns Labor Document *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 47
Ministry Team Prepares Papers on Security Issues *['AL HAMISHMAR 22 Oct]* ... 47
No Casualties as Bomb Explodes in South Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 48
Shamir Aide on Capture of Jihad Squad in Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 48
Palestinians Strike 23 Oct Against Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 48
Capital Punishment Bill for 'Terrorists' Proposed *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 48
    Cabinet Passes Draft Bill *[HA'ARETZ 21 Oct]* ... 48
Arens Delaying IDF Appointments Following Leak *[HA'ARETZ 20 Oct]* ... 48
Official on Possibility of Ties With PRC *[Tel Aviv TV]* ... 49
    Government Company Coordinates Trade *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 21 Oct]* ... 49
    Trade With PRC, Vietnam Develops *[HATZOFE 16 Oct]* ... 49
    PRC Preference in Coal Purchase Urged *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 20 Oct]* ... 50
Hungarian Industry Minister Bod Continues Visit ... 50
    Meets Deputy Prime Minister Nisim *[Budapest MTI]* ... 50
    Meets Shamir *[Budapest MTI]* ... 50
Visiting Serbian Minister Calls for More Aid *[DAVAR 18 Oct]* ... 50
Businessman Discusses Visit to USSR *[DAVAR 16 Oct]* ... 52

JORDAN

Palestinian Members of Delegation Due on 25 Oct *[Sanaa VOP]* ... 53
'Differences' Remain Over Palestinian List *[JORDAN TIMES 22 Oct]* ... 53
Foreign Minister To Attend Five-Way Meeting 23 Oct *[Amman TV]* ... 54
    Meeting 'Positive Step' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 23 Oct]* ... 54

LEBANON

Government Agrees To Attend Peace Conference *[VOL]* ... 55
    Al-Hirawi Demands Israeli Withdrawal From South *[RFL]* ... 55
Karami—Israel To Blame if Conference Fails *[Beirut Radio]* ... 55
10 Israelis Said Killed in New Operation *[VOM]* ... 55
    Israeli Forces Advance *[Voice of the Oppressed]* ... 55
    Hizballah on Maximum Alert *[VOL]* ... 55
    Palestinians Congratulate Hizballah *[Voice of the Oppressed]* ... 56

'Arafat Says No PLO Forces 'Currently' in South *[VOL]* 56
Tension in Ba'labakk After Internecine Fighting *[VOL]* 56
Hizballah Denies Connection With Hostage-Takers *[VOL]* 56
Al-Hirawi Pays Official Visit to France *[cross-reference]* 56

SYRIA

Egyptian, Jordanian, PLO Ministers Arrive 23 Oct *[Damascus Radio]* 57
'Unified Arab Stand' Seen As Essential *[Damascus Radio]* 57

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Paktia Governor Killed By Enemy Fire *[Kabul Radio]* 58

Iran

Mohtashemi—U.S. 'Objectives' Must Be Targeted *[IRNA]* 58
Nuclear Cooperation With China Denied *[IRNA]* 58
Mohajerani Demands Nuclear Capacity for Muslims *[IRNA]* 59
Referendum, Building of 'Islamic Army' Urged *[IRNA]* 60
'Extraordinary' Student Activities Surveyed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 14 Oct]* 60
* Commentary on Danger of U.S. Access to Bubiyan *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 2 OCT]* 60
* Ministry on Trial of Director of Khorasan Paper *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 9 Oct]* 61
* Director of Pasteur Institute Named *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 28 Aug]* 62
* Asadabad Satellite Station Becomes Operational *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 11 Sep]* 62
* Managing Director of NIGC Named *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 4 Sep]* 63
* Volume of Non-Oil Exports Down, Value Up *[London KEYHAN 26 Sep]* 63

Pakistan

Sharif in Jeddah for Talks With Saudi King *[Islamabad Radio]* 63
PRC's Yang Shangkun To Visit 26 Oct *[Islamabad Radio]* 64

Editorial Sees India-U.S. 'New Romance' *[20 Oct]* 64

Sense of 'Insecurity' Perceived *[THE NATION 22 Oct]* 64

Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council Chiefs of Staff Meet

JN2210071391 Manama WAKH in English 1628 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Muscat, 21 Oct (GNA)—Omani Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Khamis Bin-Humayyid Bin-Salim al-Kalbani today opened the fifth extraordinary meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) armed forces chief of staffs.

After welcoming delegations, al-Kalbani said the meeting was a follow up of the outcome of the fourth extraordinary meeting during which the idea of setting up a joint military force was discussed. [passage omitted]

Discuss Joint GCC Force

JN2210071891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Muscat, 21 Oct (WAKH)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] chiefs of staff resumed their fifth extraordinary meeting with a second working session here this evening under Lieutenant General Khamis Bin-Humayyid al-Kalbani, Omani Armed Forces chief of staff. A responsible source at the GCC general secretariat said that the meeting discussed technical matters dealing with the paper on the formation of a joint GCC force.

In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY the source said that the conferees are now discussing the details of this paper. However, the number of forces each Gulf country will contribute to the joint force has not been decided yet.

End Second Session

JN2210072191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Muscat, 21 Oct (WAKH)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] chiefs of staff ended their second working meeting here tonight under Lieutenant General Khamis Bin-Humayyid al-Kalbani, Omani Armed Forces chief of staff.

The GCC chiefs of staff will hold their third and final meeting tomorrow, Tuesday.

Recommend Joint Force

JN2210151891 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Khamis Bin-Humayyid al-Kalbani, chief of staff of the sultan's Armed Forces, announced that their excellencies the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] chiefs of staff made a recommendation to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, chairman of the GCC Higher Security Committee. The recommendation deals with Oman's proposal to establish a joint force of the GCC states in order to protect their security and achievements. This came during a news conference the Omani chief of staff gave today at the end of the fifth extraordinary session of the GCC Armed Forces' chiefs of staff. His excellency said that the Omani proposal to establish a force stipulates that it should be independent, with an independent command that will be rotational among the GCC states. He also said that the force would be made up of the sons of the GCC states for purposes of protection and defense and to reinforce each country's army. He pointed out that the headquarters of the force will be chosen by the their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the GCC states. He added that the Omani conception of this force's size is that it should not be less that 100,000 soldiers.

He asserted that the GCC states will benefit from the expertise of the fraternal and friendly countries in training and other areas and that the establishment of that force does not mean dispensing with our brothers.

Their excellencies the GCC states's chiefs of staff left the country at noon today after concluding their fifth extraordinary session, which lasted two days.

Mohamed Aamou Nominated AMU Secretary General

LD2210210491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The presidency of the republic issued the following communique: Following the decision of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], the presidency convened its fourth ordinary session in Casablanca on 15 and 16 September, 1991. It was stipulated that the assignment of the post of the AMU secretary general go to the Tunisian Republic. Tunisia nominated Mr Mohamed Amamou for this post. All member countries have agreed to his appointment as secretary general of the AMU.

Islamic Affairs

Officials Comment on Tehran Conference on Palestine

Mohtashemi Lists Conference Goals

JN2010210191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1744 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, head of the Defense and Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Committee in the Majles, by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] Mr. Mohtashemi, what has Iran set out to achieve by calling the conference at this point in time?

[Mohtashemi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The objectives of the conference may be summed up in three main points. First, to work out a practical, effective way to protect the Palestinian revolution and to extend direct support for the blessed intifadah, which represents the unity of the Islamic revolution.

Second, to explore ways that will expose the Israeli-American peace contentions, now being promoted as peace proposals, and the peace conference being prepared by the United States. It is not that we fear peace; rather, we believe that the United States seeks to wipe out the name of Palestine from the map of the Middle East.

Third, to stand up to the planned transfer of Jews to Palestine by investigating real means of pressure that will abort the plan to empty the occupied land of its indigenous population and change the demographical landscape of Palestine.

[Al-Husayni] The ongoing conference brings together disparate Palestinian and Arab forces, beginning with the PLO, through Hamas and the Palestinian resistance movement, and ending with representatives from Arab governments and parliaments. How do you account for their coming together and what objectives are you hoping to realize?

[Mohtashemi] We invited those whom we thought have influence, even those who have a modicum of influence, in the all-out battle between us as an Islamic nation and the global alliance of arrogance. We did not want other Arab or Islamic parties [words indistinct] or opposition forces.

[Al-Husayni] The Majles speaker, Shaykh Karrubi, disclosed that the participants in this conference intend to issue secret resolutions, to set up a fund to support the intifadah, and to open training camps in Iran. Would you tell our radio about the resolutions you expect the conference to pass?

[Mohtashemi] The conference resolutions will appear in a final statement. They will call for setting up the support fund you have referred to, along with other material and moral support. But [words indistinct] pale before the struggle of the children of the intifadah—the children, free women, and youths of Palestine, those mujahidin who expect much more from us. In any case, the peace resolutions of the [Tehran] conference will provide a firm response to all those who dally with and profiteer from this sacred cause.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you, Your Eminence Mr. Mohtashemi.

Speakers Vow To 'Resist Zionism'

NC2110161691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine continued last night with speeches by a number of political and parliamentary figures.

[Begin recorded report by unidentified correspondent] Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, was one of the speakers at last night's session. He said: This conference should specify a common strategy for all Moslems and combatants so that all of them will move in one direction, and we should add that the Palestine problem will not be solved with slogans. America's objective is not to suppress Palestine, but to annihilate liberation movements throughout the area, all of which are being carried out with Islamic aspirations. [passage omitted]

Namibia's parliamentary speaker also addressed last night's session. Emphasizing the need to resist Zionism, he said: My government's stance is that this conference should adopt a decisive stand based on realities and on the just rights of the oppressed Palestinians. Palestine is an Islamic and humanitarian problem and its solution will render a great service to humanity.

Another speaker was a Sri Lankan member of parliament, who said: This conference should achieve a specific objective and have positive answers to give to all the problems of Palestine. Referring to the Islamic Revolution's liberating nature, he paid his respects to the lofty spirit of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, as the leader who instilled new life in Islam and oppressed humanity. This conference is convening in a country that has a liberating disposition, has always defended the Palestinian ideal, and has not retreated under any conditions. We should seize this opportunity to find and implement common ways to fight against the usurper Israel. [end recording]

Another speaker at last night's session was Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement of Lebanon. He pointed out that the most important elements for continuing the Islamic revolution of Palestinians is setting aside differences, following the holy principles of Islam, and thinking of the future of Palestine and of Jerusalem.

Borhaneddin Rabbani, one of the leaders of Afghanistan's Islamic Movement also pointed out during last night's session: The Palestinian problem is not a national problem. It belongs to the world of Islam and all Moslems have a feeling of responsibility toward it. He said that the international plot against Moslems is never-ending. Their enemies are trying to cast the Palestinian problem into oblivion and to spread discord in the world of Islam and then ensure their security by suppressing Islamic movements and massacring Moslems.

During this session 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah, called on the international community to return the just rights of the Moslem Palestinian nation to them. He described the directives issued by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, as good directives for the fight against the occupiers of Jerusalem and called on the Islamic ummah to grant Palestine its true position.

The next speaker was Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the Algerian National Assembly and speaker of the Arab parliaments. He pointed out: The Palestine problem is at a dangerous juncture but we should resist the Zionist regime's crimes.

Munir Shafiq, renowned Palestinian scholar and researcher, also spoke at the session and said: Any kind of compromise and surrender to Israel will result in destruction.

Several other participants in the conference also addressed last night's session.

Junblatt Urges 'Long-Term Plan'

NC2110154591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt called for providing all necessary support to nationalist and Islamic powers in Lebanon, Syria, and the intifadah. He said the early signs of the isolationist Israeli coalition are taking form, warning that the old-new scheme to establish a Westernized sectarian satellite that detaches Lebanon from its Arab and Islamic environment surfaced again.

In a speech yesterday before the Tehran International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine, Junblatt said the success of the conference depends on developing a practical long-term plan that tackles the various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and settles the basic confrontation between the West and Islam.

To realize such a goal, we must agree on certain principles and draw out conclusions to guide us on our long, imperative confrontation with the West and Israel, Junblatt said. [passage omitted]

Junblatt added: To those who look up to the West as an ideal of civilization and sophistication, we say that that great edifice and those skyscrapers were built with the people's blood and wealth and they are still surrounded by a poverty, narcotics, and immorality.

Junblatt continued: No matter how diverse and numerous the problems facing Arabs may be, Palestine will continue to be at the core of the confrontation. If we fall in Palestine, Arabs will fall and Mecca will fall. Palestine, the political and religious point of attraction, is a test and challenge for Prophet Muhammad's message. [passage omitted]

Finally, he said, we give all support to the intifadah in Palestine and to the nationalist and Islamic powers in Lebanon. He added: In spite of the apparent calm in Lebanon today, the early signs of the isolationist Israeli coalition have started to resurface and the old-new scheme to establish a Westernized sectarian satellite that detaches Lebanon from its Arab and Islamic environment is taking form once again. We should give all the necessary support to steadfast Syria in its critical position at the forefront in an atmosphere of capitulation, flattery, and submission to America's ruler. [passage omitted]

Junblatt met in Tehran yesterday morning with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They reviewed current developments in Lebanon and the region as well as bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Durayd Yahgi, PSP deputy leader and lawyer; deputy Ayman Shuqayr; and Ghazi al-'Aridi, PSP official in charge of media affairs.

Tehran radio cited Junblatt as saying after the meeting that Israel will not make any concessions at the Madrid summit and the Arab states will come out empty-handed.

Bid for Intifadah Fund Noted

LD2110150791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent on the third day of the International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine, from the conference venue in Tehran]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The representatives of the participating countries put forward their views and proposals on ways of speeding up the struggle to liberate Palestine during this morning's session of three committees. Several speakers asked for the formation of special committees and the dispatch of certain parliamentary groups to pursue and implement the resolutions of the Tehran conference and to decide on a permanent headquarters for the legal backing and establishment of continuous liaison between the governments and nations.

The proposal which was stressed the most was the selection of a currency and the creation of a monetary fund in support of the intifadah. During separate sessions, some of the participants in Tehran conference criticized the United Nations for not implementing the Security Council resolutions against Israel and referring to the ineffective stances and resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement in connection with the Palestine issue. They proposed that an independent organization, with a specific legal identity, be set up. The organization will be comprised of the supporters of the Palestinian intifadah, so that the issue of Palestine may always be independently discussed as a fundamental problem of humanity. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Nuri, a combative Palestinian who was speaking at the parliamentary committee in support of the intifadah, stressed: We tried hard to persuade our PLO brothers not to attend the Madrid conference, but we did not succeed. However, we have warned them that their participation in the U.S. conference will be dangerous for their own fate and future and for all Palestinians. He emphasized: The world should know that those who attend the Madrid conference in the name of the combative Palestinian groups are in no way the true representatives of the oppressed and suffering people of Palestine. Rather, they are merchants, seeking cheap publicity even at the expense of betraying the Palestine cause.

During their session this morning, the participants in the Tehran conference urged the allocation of a special budget by all Islamic governments in support of the intifadah. I would like to mention that the conference will resume its general meeting at 1600 this afternoon.

Yazdi—'Practical Support' Needed

LD2110151391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] At a meeting of judiciary officials this morning, Ayatollah Yazdi spoke about the very important remarks of the eminent leader [Khamene'i] and the honorable president about the Palestinian issue. He said: The land of Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people and the Zionist regime is a usurper. The land must be returned to its rightful owners, and the struggles of the wronged people of Palestine must continue in a constant and relentless manner until the attainment of that goal.

He then addressed the International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine. He stated: What must be given particular attention and importance in the conference is practical support for the Palestinian people.

Velayati—Israel 'Doomed'

LD2110164991 Tehran IRNA in English 1326 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today said that despite all political and military maneuvers and "flexing of muscles" by the world powers, "hope for the settlement of the Palestine question is more than ever."

Speaking on the third day of the International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine, he also said that any agreement or reconciliation with the Zionist regime was doomed.

Velayati said the only solution to the question of Palestine was the elimination of the Zionist regime, return of the holy land of Palestine to the Muslims, and restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in the establishment of a government based on the will and desire of the Palestinian Muslim nation.

"Fortunately, the Persian Gulf crisis with all its bitterness left behind a positive achievement that laid bare the double-standard attitudes of the big powers in facing the question of occupation."

"It showed that the occupiers will condemn and punish aggressors only when they jeopardize the interests of the imperialist powers. However, when it comes to the Zionist regime as the strategic ally of the United States, all these slogans and rhetorics prove to be absurd."

The foreign minister termed the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace conference to be held in the Spanish capital later this month, as a "ridiculous show" aimed at stabilizing the Zionist regime in the region and to dominate the world's expansionist forces.

He said the conference would have nothing "not even an inch of the Palestinian land" for those wishful thinkers who had adopted conciliatory stances.

Velayati told the delegates that the Tehran conference was being hosted "under the most critical international and regional circumstances."

"This conference intends to make the voice of Palestine be heard as the voice of Islam, jihad, and struggle. A conference that is committed to inform the world community of the grievances and sufferings of the Muslim people of Palestine.

"The conference must declare to all that...all Muslims of the world and all free-minded people will support Palestinians and the Intifadah to the end against the Zionist enemy and its racist and expansionist nature."

The foreign minister further said in his speech: "Today the whole Palestinian land has become a battlefield between the Muslim ummah with a population of more than one billion people on one side and the domination seeking racist and aggressive forces on the other...."

"In the light of the recent developments in the world and the collapse of bipolar system, today the world hegemonist powers try to impose a new model of power structure and a new world order in an effort to prepare themselves to confront the next era that is the era of awareness of nations."

Velayati regretted that the recent meeting held in Algiers by the Palestine National Council, instead of giving support to the glorious Islamic Intifadah "moved in spreading the spirit of disappointment and bringing discredit for those who must be the most sympathetic persons for the Palestinian nation."

Elsewhere in his address, he said provocative remarks made recently by Zionist officials at a time when the question of the settlement of the Palestinian issue is being pursued, and "all the more so, the recent aggressive measure taken by the regime in violating the regional states' air space, suggests the existence of such an anti-peace spirit."

The foreign minister regretted that those who were providing the Zionist regime with the greatest scale of aid "are beating the drum of peace and stability in the region."

He said according to the "Middle East report" the entire direct military and private assistance by the U.S. to the Zionist regime since 1949 has reached dlrs. [dollars] 50 billion [bn]. He said in the year 1990 alone over dlrs. 3 bn consisting of dlrs. 1.8 bn in military assistance and dlrs. 1.2 bn in economic aid was doled out to the Zionist regime.

"These figures do not include an additional USD [U.S. dollars] 666.1 million assistance, USD 100 million for storing American armaments in occupied Palestine and USD 183.5 million aid for the purpose of starting the operation of and amplifying the Voice of America (VOA) transmitter in occupied Palestine and others.

"In 1989 official figures showed USD 3 billion assistance to this regime."

"In addition, some USD 2.5 billion of private assistance and USD 1 billion in short-term and long-term loans are not included above. Adding up all these figures we would have the figure of USD 6 billion the per capita of which for every Israeli citizen becomes USD 1,377 and this figure is more than gnp. Of most countries including Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, Mauritania, Sudan and Somalia."

"Regarding the financial resources for the purpose of implementing Jewish emigration plan, official figures of the Zionist regime show the sum USD can guess easily what the relation of the present compromise trend in the region and massive Jewish migration, expansionist policy of the Zionist regime and peace-seeking of the regime is with American agreement for granting a USD 10 billion loan guarantee."

Towards the conclusion of his remarks, Velayati warned against "another dangerous conspiracy perpetrated to give legitimacy and correct the stained image of the Zionist regime."

"We think one of the eternal achievements and honours of the U.N. General Assembly was the adoption on 7 November, 1975 of Resolution 3379."

"This resolution was adopted by a large majority of countries but the United States and some other countries are now trying hard to cancel this resolution and by exerting pressure on the General Assembly they seek to impose without any respect for the votes of other countries their will and the interests of the Zionist regime over the overwhelming majority of countries."

"It behooves the Islamic and justice seeking nations of the world and all those who believe in the sovereign right of nations to show greater sensitivity to this issue."

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Peace Delegation

NC2110143691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], stressed today in Tehran that the Palestinians who participate in the peace conference within the Palestinian delegation have issued their own death warrants and that the Palestinian people will call them to account and will not forgive them.

It should be recalled that the PFLP-GC is not a member of the PLO.

Speakers View Intifadah

LD2210060691 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—A Syrian parliamentarian said here today that the intifadah or the uprising in Palestine had received its first blow from the Persian Gulf war sparked by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in August last year.

Speaking on the third day of the international conference on Palestine here today, Shakir Sa'id also said that the problem of Palestine was inseparable from all Arabs issues.

"There will be no peace as long as all the Palestinian lands remain under Israeli occupation," he said.

He said Syria was doing all it could to strengthen the intifadah, "because we believe the Zionist occupation of the Arab land should come to an end, and the occupied land should be returned to their real owners," he remarked.

The 4-day conference in support of the Islamic revolution in Palestine has brought to Tehran government officials and leading revolutionaries of the Muslim world including Palestinian leaders opposed to the sell-out of Palestinian rights planned by Washington in Madrid later this month.

"The intifadah led to new equations in the region, laying bare the barbarities of the Zionist regime," said one-time prayer leader of the al-Aqsa mosque, Shaykh al-As'ad al-Tamimi.

The shaykh who was expelled from holy al-Quds by the illegal Zionist state a few years ago, said the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran inspired the Palestinian people with new hopes of their own victory.

Appealing for all-out support from the Iranian people, he said "we back the Islamic revolution to the hilt, and I believe that Israel will not be able to continue its existence."

Al-Tamimi added to a lound applause from the gathering: "God willing, we will finally enter the al-Aqsa mosque, and this should be done with the help of guns."

He described the timing of the Tehran conference as "crucial", and urged Arabs to boycott the Middle East conference planned by the United States later this month.

"What an irony," said the shaykh, "the so-called conference is to be held in Madrid, capital of the once Muslim-liberated land of al-Andalus."

Al-Andalus is Arabic for the Iberian peninsula (Spain and Portugal), which, under seven centuries of Muslim rule, had the most advanced culture and civilization in Europe at a time when the rest of the continent was groping in medieval darkness.

Disunity and moral decadence—similar to the present situation—resulted in the loss of al-Andalus with the state of Granada falling in 1498, and Muslims driven into Northern Africa across the strait of Gibralatar (corruption for the Arabic "Jabl al-Tariq" or the Rock of Tariq). Those unable to escape were given the choice between death or conversion to Christianity, while mosques were turned into churches.

Prominent Afghan mojahedin leader Hojjat ol-Eslam Mortazavi termed the Zionist regime "a cancerous tumour" and called for a "drastic surgery to remove this foreign matter from the suffering body of Palestine."

He said the operation requires blood donations and "those who believe the Palestine problem is an Arab one, should give their blood as Arabs, those who regard it an Islamic cause, should give blood as Muslims, and those who view it as a humanitarian issue, should give blood as humans in order to liberate Palestine."

Urging the various Palestinian groups and organizations to make common cause against the Zionist enemy irrespective of their ideals, mortazavi said "Palestine is your country, and you should fight for the liberation of your homeland which has been occupied by the Zionists."

The next to take the podium was a retired supreme court judge of Bangladesh, Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, who said the plight of the Palestinians was not too tragic for words but too deep for ears.

"For about half a century now we have been witnessing in Palestine not only the flagrant violation of all international and democratic values but also the trampling of all basic human rights and moral values. The tragic history of Palestine is too well known to be repeated," he said.

The Palestine issue is the core of the Middle East problem which constitutes the most serious challenge to international peace and security, said Chowdhury.

He also sighed that the Islamic ummah was engaged in a "life and death struggle today for its very survival" because of the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Husayn and the subsequent war, which he said "has done for Israel and the enemies of Islam what they could not have achieved for at least a hundred years," he remarked.

Groups Discuss Intifadah Support

LD2110204491 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—Ways of supporting the intifadah and blocking the influx of Jews to occupied Palestine was discussed here today by the working committees of the ongoing international conference in support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine discussed, here today. [sentence as received]

The role of parliaments of Muslim countries in backing the Islamic revolution of Palestine was also studied, with strong advocation for setting up an independent fund to finance the intifadah.

Addressing the session, Majles member Saeed Rajaei Khorasani suggested that parliaments, governments and non-governmental organizations of Muslim states contribute to the said fund.

'Ahd-al-Aziz Nouri of 'Hamas' the Islamic movement in occupied Palestine, called for the rejection of the U.S. planned Middle East conference in Madrid, Spain, to be held later this month, and said the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)-led by Yasir 'Arafat does not represent all Palestinian people.

Member of the Bangladesh parliament Noor ul-Islam Madani called on Muslim countries to set up a separate institution to take the place of the non-aligned movement and the United Nations, which bodies, he said were "not competent to stand up to the arrogant powers."

Tehran MP, Najafqoli Habibi, proposed the formation of a central Islamic secretariat made up of military, economic and political authorities to handle Palestinian affairs, as well as a Palestinian bank to raise fund for the Palestinian people.

'Abu-Jihad of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, describing the health situation in the occupied land as "disastrous" because all hospitals and other medical centers were being controlled by the Zionist regime.

He called for dispatch of medical aid for wounded Palestinian freedom fighters and for a thorough investigation into the situation of 400,000 homeless Palestinians.

Some dlrs 605 million in loss is incurred monthly by the West Bank of Jordan River and the Gaza strip of Palestine as a result of economic blockade and ban on exports to the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Tunisian writer, Torab Zamzami termed the Madrid conference as a "big plot," and called on Arab leaders to review their stands and stay clear of the trap set up by Washington and the illegal state of Israel.

Muslim Institute Head Speaks

LD2110171191 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—The director of the Muslim Institute of London, Kalim Siddiqui, today called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to take "key measures" as the leader of the universal Islamic movement to liberate occupied Islamic territories.

In his message to the International Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution in Palcstine, Siddiqui described the illegal state of Israel as a "dagger thrust in the heart of Islamic lands," and said its creation was the most arrogant step taken by the West to further its political domination of the house of Islam.

The message blasted arrogant powers led by the United States and the Soviet Union for trying to divert Muslim attention by insisting on negotiations with the usurpers of Palestine and al-Quds.

Hizballah Leader Vows To Sabotage Conference

NC2110205691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, who is in Tehran, stated that Hizballah will do everything in its power to make the peace conference fail. Asked if Hizballah will resort to violent methods, even in Europe, to foil the conference, al-Musawi said that the Madrid conference is a conference of conspiracy and an aggression against Palestine. He announced: We will do everything in our power to make it fail.

Third General Session Meets

NC2310055991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The third general session of the International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine was held last night. During this session Sayyid Sajid Naqawi, leader of the Pakistani Shiites, said in his speech: Islam dictates that all Moslems condemn the occupation of an Islamic territory by the racist Zionists. Sayyid Sajid Naqawi proposed the formation of a liberation organization comprising Islamic countries, and said: If resistance cells against the front of blasphemy are formed, the problems faced by the oppressed Moslems will decrease. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Ibrahim Shukri [leader of the Socialist Labor Party] also described compromise and surrender to the desires of America and the Zionists as tantamount to paving the way for the destruction of the intifadah and for the expansion of the Zionist regime's domination.

New Delhi's Friday imam, Imam Bukhari, also spoke at last night's session. Condemning U.S. plots to weaken the Moslems and to upset their unity, he stressed: Indian Moslems, who are inspired by the Islamic revolution, consider the Palestine problem to be their own problem and are ready to defend the land of revelation.

Sidon's shar' magistrate Shaykh Ahmad Zayn, and Rashid-al-Din Kamalu, a Moslem from southern Africa, were among the other speakers at last night's session of the conference and spoke on the need to continue the struggle against the usurping Zionists.

Fatah Uprising Leader Speaks

LD2210213391 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—A senior Palestinian figure termed the U.S.-sponsored peace conference to be held in Madrid later this month as that of Arab compromisers with Zionism. Speaking on the third day of the international conference on supporting the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people here Monday, secretary of the Central Committee of the General Command of the Fatah [uprising] movement, Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] said there would be no just peace before the elimination of the Zionist regime. He called on Iran, Syria and Libya to take the first steps in forming a Palestinian army.

Addressing the Palestinians wishing to campaign against Zionism, he said liberation of Palestine is impossible without taking Islam into consideration. Inviting Palestinian groups to unite, he said Palestinian groups should have understanding among themselves before calling for assistance from other Arab and Islamic countries. [passage omitted]

Friday Prayers Leader Speaks

LD2210193191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine [CIRP] continued its work today with speeches by a number of the participants. Our colleague reports:

[Unidentified Correspondent] Good day to you dear listeners of the midday news bulletin. I am speaking to you from the premises where the CIRP is being held, in Esteqlal [Freedom] Hotel, Tehran.

The CIRP continued its fourth day of work this morning. The participants expressed satisfaction at the Tehran conference's talks and hoped that the decisions taken during the sessions will be fully effective in establishing unity, intensifying struggles, achieving victory more quickly, and bringing about the liberation of Jerusalem and all occupied territories.

In this morning's general session, speakers from Yemen, Algeria, America, Palestine, Uganda, Tunisia, Jordan, Indonesia, Philippines, Ethiopia, Lebanon, and Switzerland examined and discussed the circumstances of the intifadah, obstacles to victory, and effective factors in the intensification of the intifadah. They emphasized that a new and extensive plot is being hatched against the world of Islam and the interests of Moslems with the staging of the Madrid Conference. [passage omitted] The formation of a resistant force with a single central command; the adoption of a uncompromising and decisive stance vis-a-vis compromise with the enemies of Islam; and the establishment of joint university, cultural, and research centers by the true followers of Islam and the revolutionaries and soldiers of the Imam Khomeyni—God's peace be upon him—were the most important points of discussion in this morning's session. These points were continually approved by the participants.

Muhammad al-Asi, the Friday prayer leader of Washington thought that the distance between Tehran and Madrid was a distance between justice and injustice, under present circumstances. Those who chose one out of these two paths are really showing the level of their commitment to the principles of Islam and the aspirations of oppressed Palestine. The Friday prayer leader of Washington considered that the formation of a commission composed by Moslem ulema, scholars and revolutionaries for issuing unified and coordinated fatwas [religious rulings] and for taking decision concerned with the world of Islam, was a necessity. [passage omitted] Abdullah Rajal, head of the Algerian Liberation Front [as heard; ra'is-e jebhe-e azadibakhsh-e al-jaza'ir] said: How can it be accepted that America and the West, who have a long record of crimes, tyranny, and exploitation in the third world—especially against Moslems, should today endeavor to give Moslems and oppressed Palestinians their rights. Were they not the same people who set up the essential foundations of that germ of corruption, i.e. Zionism, and caused the Jews to immigrate there from different parts of the world? Have they now come to make peace voluntarily? What kind of logic does this comply with? Shaykh Mahir Hamud, member of the Ulema Assembly of Lebanon likewise said that the Tehran Conference will lead to greater organization among Palestinian strugglers and will diminish the false interest being shown in the Madrid conference. [passage omitted]

Telegram to UN Sent

LD2210195491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The participants in the International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine sent a telegram to the UN secretary general and to the Security Council chairman this evening. The telegram condemns the American conference in Madrid and opposes, in advance, what will be approved at that conference.

The telegram states: Because the Madrid conference disregards the lawful rights of the people of Palestine and intends to legitimize the aggression of the occupiers, all that it proves is considered null and void by the participants in the Tehran conference. The participants also asked for the contents of the telegram to be conveyed to all countries, in accordance with internal laws and for the sake of safeguarding the rights of the people of Palestine.

Copies of the telegram were sent to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, the secretary general of the Arab League, the secretary general of the OAU, and the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Karrubi Gives Closing Speech

LD2210215991 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi today hailed the intifadah in Palestine as a "powerful engine" against the enemies of Islam, and predicted that Muslim unity will eventually help "liberate the first qibla [direction of prayer] of Islam". In his closing address to the 4-day international conference in support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine, Karrubi said what prompted the Iranian Majles to pass the law to support the Islamic revolution of Palestinian people and to commit the government to support the intifadah was the "undeniable reality that today the question of Palestine and the liberation of the first qibla of Muslims from the tentacles of the Zionist regime stands on top of the problems confronting the Islamic world."

Karrubi who is also the conference chairman thanked the august gathering which included ministers, parliamentarians, revolutionary figures and journalists from 60 countries including Palestinian leaders opposed to the sell-out of their birthrights planned by America in Madrid, Spain, later this month. He called the active presence of so many Islamic and nationalist figures at this sensitive juncture a fitting protest to the "great Zionist-American conspiracy" and to the compromising trend underway.

"Imam Khomeyni pulled us out of the cocoon surrounding the narrow-minded political and nationalist goals by raising the question of prominence and by drawing the principal line of the long term strategy of the Islamic ummah. He gave a new direction to our scattered resistance movements and drew our attention to the real enemy," he pointed out. "Our joint efforts in this direction will enable us to achieve the unity that is the key to the problems of the Islamic world. By holding this conference we decided to provide practical grounds for realization of this common approach.... We sincerely pray to the Almighty for bestowing upon us such a great success at this critical juncture," added the conference chairman.

He said Washington's efforts to speed up the so-called Middle East peace conference coupled with compromising attitudes pointing towards "continuation of the Camp David trend", made Iran all the more determined to reach for common understanding and common position among world Muslims regarding the Palestinian question.

"Our final declaration is indicative of our understanding and feeling in connection with our mutual problem and at the same time is an emphasis on the need for the continuation of such attempts and its further organization for gaining greater achievements and giving more momentum to the holy Intifada. "I humbly call on all brothers and Palestinian groups although with different interests and opinions to stride in the path of unity and request them to guard its achievements. "I pray to merciful God for patience and victory for all. With great hope to the blessings of Allah, the destroyer of the oppressors and helper of the oppressed, for speedy realization of the legitimate Palestinian cause," Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi said.

Earlier in the session an Iranian member of parliament termed as "wishful thinkers" those who advocate peace with Israel, and said "the greed of the Zionist entity will not even be satiated by the occupation of all lands between the Rivers Nile and Euphrates."

Mrs Ateqeh Raja'i, widow of martyred Iranian President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i (1981), warned of plots to weaken the ummah's spirits and to imply that Muslims have no alternative other than negotiations with the illegal Zionist state. "Therefore it is our prime duty to inspire the struggle. We can overcome the enemy even with a small determined group, that's why Palestinaian Intifada has seriously frightened Israel," she said.

Mohammad al-Amin from Lebanon also told the audience that the objective of the Tehran gathering is even higher than the defeat of the U.S.-planned Middle East conference in Madrid. "We should try to broaden the gap between the hegemonist regimes and their peoples by proper methods of enlightment and the greater the rift the more the chances for peace and security," he added. Al-Amin said the results of the Madrid talks will certainly be compromise, and called on Arab peoples to foil such moves and step up the struggle against the Zionist regime.

The conference was inaugurated on Saturday by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who pledged Iran's full support to the struggle against the Zionists, including the despatching of troops if necessary. Some of the prominent figures who took the podium today were Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat, leader of Algeria's Islamic Movement Saad Djadallah and Washington's Friday prayer leader Mohammad al-Asi. Al-Asi urged American statesmen to come to their senses and grasp the fact that the United States' security is in no way linked to the illegitimate existence of the terrorist Zionist regime on Palestine soil. He said that the annual state budget of the Zionist regime is dlrs 24 billion, one-fourth of which is provided by Washington. "In other words each American tax-payer is contributing dlrs 1300 per year towards the growing lawlessness of the Zionist regime," al-Asi pointed out.

Iran's Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahian said the conference should effectively demolish "the atmosphere of terror" built up by arrogant powers in an effort to contain the Palestinian Intifada. "History has shown that whenever Muslims took a step backward in their struggles the enemy dared to attempt more aggression, as is well exemplified by the case of the Zionist entity in the region," he said. Fallahian said the diffences of outlooks makes the enemy think that the Madrid conference will result in the total settlement of the Palestine issue. "Of course, this is wishful thinking," he added. He said America's version of the new world order means reduction of military clashes, and greater focus and investment on the cloak and dagger games played by its intelligence forces.

The enemy is trying to weaken Muslims against the arrogant plots through secret intelligence operations and psychological warfare, and "quite unfortunately, this plot has been effective with regard to the heads of some Islamic countries," said Fallahian.

He called for mobilization of intelligence sources of Muslim states against this plot, and urged writers, artists, poets and men of letters in general to lay bare the designs of global arrogance.

The Islamic Republic, said the minister, is determined to expose this new imperialist-Zionist stratagem, and to this end the Information Ministry has focused all its efforts against arrogance in order to brighten up the world with rays of Islam.

Declaration Issued

LD2210221191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Declaration of the International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine—read by announcer]

[Text] The conference considers the Palestine problem as the foremost problem of the Islamic world and it underlines the need for common efforts by all nations, parliaments, and Islamic states towards the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The conference considers the Zionist regime a fictitious and illegitimate entity, and its establishment in the heart of the Islamic lands a premeditated conspiracy by global Zionism and arrogant powers and enemies of Islam against the Muslim nation, and a launching pad for their ambitions in the gulf.

The conference resolutely affirms the historical rights and undeniable sovereignty of the Palestinian people over the entire Palestinian territory, and strongly supports the deep-rooted struggle of the Palestinian people for the total liberation of the occupied lands, elimination of the Zionist existence, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The conference strongly condemns the criminal purposes of the Zionist, racist regime in al-Quds al-Sharif, the capital of the state of Palestine, as well as the destruction of Islamic relics in al-Aqsa Mosque, the first qibla [direction of prayer] of Muslims and other Islamic sacred places, changing the Islamic Palestinian identity, and to alter its demographic structure.

The conference, while inviting all the combating Palestinian forces to stronger practical unity in their resistance against the Zionist enemy, considers the unity of word as the key to the achievement of victories.

The conference condemns the cruel treatment of the residents of the occupied territories by the Zionist regime and affirms the legitimate right of the oppressed peoples of these territories to continue armed struggle the occupying forces.

The conference, while underlining the need for the earliest freedom of prisoners and hostages detained by the occupying regime, condemns hostage-taking, expulsion, and deportation of the residents of the occupied territories by the Zionist regime.

The conference calls on the Islamic countries to establish in (?their military) permanent units for the purpose of forming the al-Quds Liberation Army and maintaining state of preparedness and act of participation in the Islamic campaign and defense against the Zionist enemy.

The conference condemns the repeated aggressions of the Zionist regime against Lebanon and its criminal acts against the people of this country and, by honoring the martyrs of the Islamic and natonalist resistance of Lebanon, strongly supports the continuation of the relentless struggles of that people against the aggressive Zionist regime.

The conference condemns the strategic, political, military and economic alliance of the United States with the Zionist regime, which is the utmost important factor for the continuation of the policy of aggression against the Islamic countries and oppressed Palestinian people. Thus it considers any attempt to support the U.S. policy in the region in contravention with the Palestinian cause and the realisation of the sacred aspirations of the Palestinian people and Muslim nations.

The participants condemned the efforts by the United States to hold the so-called Middle-East peace conference, which is in pursuance of the shameful Camp David Accord and considered it as an ominous and dangerous plot perpetrated to suppress the Palestinian revolution, [they] called on the Islamic and Arab countries, as well as revolutionary and Islamic forces, to stand against this conspiracy and reject its conciliatory efforts, which will lead to formal recognition of the occupying regime of al-Quds.

The conference deplored the open indifference of the Security Council to the atrocities and repeated aggressions of the Zionist regime against Islamic countries, consistent violations of the rules of international law inside and outside the occupied Palestine, and its selective discrimination, rather discriminatory, approach towards similar hotbeds of tension in the world. It considers this approach of the United Nations a total disregard to the charter of the United Nations and [word indistinct] human rights.

The conference, while condemning the efforts undertaken by the United States at the United Nations in order to cancel the General Assembly Resolution 3379 of 1979, which equated Zionism with an example of racism and, reaffirming this declaration, considered this action as an attempt to enhance the position of the Zionist regime in the international community and bring it out of international isolation.

The conference views the American plans for the Middle East disarmament as a malicious attempt to weaken the military strength of the Islamic states and to further strengthen the aggressor armed forces of the Zionist enemy and calls on all Islamic countries to intensify their efforts for the greater unity of the Islamic ummah and the defences of strength of the Islamic world against the increasing threat of world [word indistinct] powers.

The conference strongly condemns the extensive presence of the United States and the [words indistinct] of the Persian Gulf and all forms of collaboration to perpetuate this presence, and considers this presence as deterrent and an impediment in the way of strengthening the potential capability of the Muslim nations of the region to attain their Islamic aspirations and to specially liberate Palestine.

The conference considered the migration of Soviet and other Jews to Palestine and the establishment of Jewish settlements an attempt to alter its demographic fabric and Islamic identity. While condemning this action, the conference expressed its consternation over the role of the United States on this ominous news and urged all Islamic governments and free and revolutionary as well as Islamic forces to do their utmost to counter this move and express their disapproval to those government that offering their collaboration.

Upon reviewing the recent global developments, the conference deplored the surrender of some governments to the wishes of the United States and establishment of relations with the Zionist enemy; warned against the dangerous consequences of the malintentions of the racist, Zionists against humanity; and declared all forms of contacts and rapprochement with the enemy as an action contravening the interests and wishes of the nations of the world in general and Muslims in particular. Since one of the important means for the penetration of the expansionist, Zionist regime is taking advantage of the economic [word indistinct] of the most countries of the world, the conference, by condemning this policy, calls on all Islamic countries to boycott all Zionist-related trade companies and financial institutions.

The conference decided that a permanent secretariat be formed out of the executive committee as well as the secretary general. The secretariat will be comprised the number, rather members of Islamic parliaments, groups, and personalities active in Islamic affairs.

The conference asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to form the secretariat in Tehran. The duty of this permanent secretariat will be to adopt the internal rules of procedures as well as the necessary organizations to implement the ratifications of this conference.

The conference emphasized the necessity of the formation of permanent committees in parliaments of Islamic countries in order to concentrate material and spiritual efforts in supporting the Palestinian cause in coordinating their endeavours with the permanent secretariat of the conference.

The conference request the parliaments of Islamic countries to ratify the necessary laws to guarantee the rights and protect the human dignity of the Palestinians residing in their countries.

Taking in view the need for an all-out jihad against the Zionist regime and reminding the parliaments of Islamic countries or their responsibility towards the realisation of the Palestinian cause, underlined the need for allocation of a fund, which shall be replenished annually by the governments of Islamic countries for the purpose of supporting the intifadah.

The conference underlined the need for the establishment of an Islamic fund for Palestine with the [word indistinct] of the Islamic governments and nations with a view to help the oppressed people of Palestine and to support intifadah.

The conference calls on all men of letters, poets, writers, intellectuals, and committed artists throughout the Islamic world to do their utmost for a cultural jihad [word indistinct] intifidah and the Palestinian cause.

In order to make the voice of the oppressed Palestinian heard and to coordinate the news broadcast activities of the Islamic countries concerning the Palestinian question, the conference underlined the need for the holding of the regular meetings of the news, political, and cultural mass media in these countries, under the tower of the conference of Islamic media to support the Palestinian cause.

The conference pays tribute to the soul of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, peace be upon him, praised his support and stand points for the Palestinian cause and supported his initiative to declare the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as the international al-Quds day, and emphatically called on all Islamic countries to do their utmost in honoring this day, organizing ceremonies befitting this occasion and creating conducive conditions for arousing the genuine feeling of the Muslim nations towards the Palestinian cause.

The conference calls on the permanent secretariat to take necessary measures to [word indistinct] the implementation of the above-mentioned ratification and to report the process to the participants of the next session.

The participants at the conference expressed their appreciation for the valuable attention and wise guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, regarding the question of Palestine and approved that his recent statement of October 17th 1991 be considered as an official document of the conference.

The conference also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Consultative Assembly at this present, crucial juncture.

Velayati Holds Sideline Meetings With Officials

Meets Algerian Parliament Speaker

LD2210115591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Ali Ben Khadem, the speaker of the Algerian Parliament, who is in Tehran to attend the International Conference To Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine, met with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. He stated: This meeting strengthens the Islamic ranks for confrontation with Israel's expansionist desires. He added: The so-called peace conference in Madrid is taking place in circumstances in which the balance of power is tilting in favor of the adversary in a shocking manner. The usurping regime is demanding new concessions daily in order to accept peace. It has recently said that the bilateral talks should be held in Tel Aviv.

The Algerian parliamentary speaker went on: Present developments and the conditions imposed on the Arabs will have grave consequences for the entire Middle East region. It is necessary to rise up with vigilance, therefore, to confront it. Concluding his remarks Mr. Ben Khadem said: The Islamic states, by following Iran's example, should hasten to support the intifadah and offer it financial aid.

Confirming the views of the Algerian parliamentary speaker, Mr. Velayati said: Arabs will not gain anything from the Madrid conference. The Americans brought up this plan so as to strengthen the status of the occupying regime of Palestine in the region and among its neighbors. Palestinians have been deprived of their rights thanks to this conspiracy.

Our foreign minister added: For the first time, some Arab states, particularly those neighboring Palestine, are recognizing the occupying regime by taking part in these talks. We think the Moslems should increase their support for the intifadah in order to confront such a conspiracy. Mr. Velayati went on: Under these circumstances, since many of the Arab and Moslem countries dare not express their opposition, the Islamic Republic of Iran has organized this conference in Tehran in support of the Palestine revolution, and it openly rejects the so-called peace conference of Madrid. This should be a source of encouragement to others, and it will be so.

Talks With Egypt's Mashhur

LD2210190891 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his meeting here today with an Egyptian Muslim leader urged all Islamic and nationalist groups to whole-heartedly support the intifada in Palestine. Mustafa Mashhur, a leader [of] Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, who is here at the head of a delegation to attend the international conference in support of the Islamic revolution in Palestine, replied that an armed struggle was the only way to confront the Zionist regime. "Conciliatory options to solve the Palestine problem will lead nowhere," he said.

The moves underway by several Arab states to grant recognition to the al-Quds occupying regime, said Mashhur, "will bring no gain for Palestine and will only complete the Camp David accord."

The 4-day Tehran conference which is to wind up this evening, has brought together Islamic and nationalist forces from the Muslim world opposed to the sell-out of Palestinian rights planned by Washington and others in Madrid later this month.

Meets Lebanon's Fadlallah, Others

LD2210090491 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—Three leading Muslim activists in Lebanon said to Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati here separately today that Iran continues to play a central role in the struggle against the United States and Zionism. They said Muslim and national forces in Lebanon, too, should unite along the same line and for the same purpose.

The three Lebanese activists were the minister of state in charge of Administrative Affairs, Zahir al-Khatib, the leader of the Khalq- Nasiri [Nasirite Organization in Sidon, Mustafa Ma'Ruf Sa'd, and head of the Amal Movement delegation, Haytham Jum'a.

In response the foreign minister said Iran is willing and ready to offer all forms of support to struggling Muslim groups. He said the Lebanese Muslims should uphold their struggle. He added that the Palestinians as well as Muslims worldwide have long since concluded that the compromising policies have hit a deadlock and are far too inefficient to safeguard the rights of the Palestinians.

In another meeting with Velayati here Monday the ranking alim of Lebanon Mohammad Husayn Fadlallah reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon and the Middle East and exchanged opinion with the Iranian foreign minister. The Lebanese religious personality said that it is time all Muslim and national forces united around the pivot of the Islamic revolution.

Velayati said the Madrid conference will not bring any benefit to Palestinians or the Arabs at large. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready and willing to offer all sorts of support to Muslims and to the Mujahidin in Lebanon, in the occupied Palestine who are fighting for the liberation of their homeland from Zionist occupation.

Confers With Syrian Delegates

JN2210201791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Tehran—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velyati has said that President Hafiz al-Asad's stand on all issues is a balanced, revolutionary one. During a meeting today with the Syrian Arab delegation to the international conference for supporting the Palestinian intifadah currently being held in Iran, Dr. Velayati added that Syria is passing through difficult circumstances in view of its location and stands. He said: We value Syria's stand on the peace conference. Iran is interested in and appreciates this stand, he said. [passage omitted]

More on Meeting With Syrians

LD2210223291 Tehran IRNA in English 2109 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—A delegation from the Syrian parliament here for the international conference in support for Palestine met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday and told him that in view of the international situation the Tehran conference will serve to solidify the Palestinian resistance.

Velayati in response said the U.S.-sponsored Mid-East conference to be held in Madrid later this month is "obviously unilateral and serves solely the interests of the Zionist regime." He added that world arrogance and Zionism have been exploiting developments in the Eastern bloc countries and "the second war in the Persian Gulf" (Iraqi invasion of Kuwait) for strengthening the status of the Zionist regime.

He commented that as far as Iran is concerned the Muslim states can overcome all problems by adopting a united stance towards their common problems which could become a reality by trusting in God and by their unity.

Palestinian Affairs

Profiles of Delegates to Madrid Talks Given

NC2210164591 Paris AFP in English 1632 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 22 (AFP) - Faysal al-Husayni, the main Palestinian leader from the Israeli-occupied territories, on Tuesday announced the definitive list of names of the Palestinian delegates to the Madrid peace conference.

Israel is demanding that none of the Palestinian delegates represent Arab East Jerusalem, which it annexed in 1967, or have any links to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The following are the names and biographies of the 14 Palestinian delegates:

—Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, born in Gaza in 1919, has headed the Palestinian Red Crescent since 1972. He studied medicine in Lebanon and the United States. Imprisoned and exiled for three months in the Sinai after the 1967 occupation, he was expelled three years later to Lebanon. He returned three months later following the intervention of the Red Cross.

—Zakariya al-Agha, born in 1942 at Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. A doctor at the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, he has headed the Arab Medical Association of Gaza since 1985. He was imprisoned several times in 1975, placed under house arrest in 1987 and hit with a six-month administrative arrest warrant in 1988.

—Furayh Abu-Madyan, born in 1944 in the Gaza Strip, studied law in Egypt, president since 1990 of the Gaza Order of Lawyers. Close to Fatah, he represented the Gaza Strip in international conferences organized by the United Nations. He spent one year in prison in 1975.

—'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, born in 1946 and living at Bayt Yahun in the Gaza Strip, is a dean at Bir Zayt University in the West Bank, and president of the Palestinian Faculty Association.

—Ilyas Frayj, born in Bethlehem in 1920, became mayor of the city in 1972, and was reelected in 1976. In 1980, he refused to resign after the Israelis created a civilian administration which banned new municipal elections. He is close to Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

—Mustafa al-Natshah, born in Hebron in 1930, is a chemical engineer who studied in Egypt and the Netherlands, and has been director since 1980 of the Agriculture Industries Company. He was mayor of the West Bank city of Hebron from 1980 to 1983 before the Israelis forced him to step down, and is a member of the council of deans at Najah Univeristy in Nablus.

—Mamduh al-'Akar was born in 1943 in Nablus where he is a doctor. He is the author of several articles in Palestinian and Israeli newspapers. Close to the mainstream PLO faction of Fatah, he was detained for 14 days in March 1991.

—Sami Zayd al-Kilani, born in 1952 in Ya'bad, the West Bank, professor of physics at al-Najah University in Nablus, close to the PLO faction Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Sentenced to three years in prison in 1977. Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, considered him to be a prisoner of conscience. Author of short stories and poetry.

—Nabil al-Ja'bari, born in Hebron in 1945, dental surgeon trained in London, heads a private dental practice in Jerusalem and presides over the Hebron University Council. Imprisoned for two months in 1988.

—Samih Kan'an was born to a Jewish mother in Nablus. In 1954, he was employed by the city's chamber of commerce. Kan'an was sentenced to a 20-year jail term in 1973. He was set free in 1985. He is close to Fatah.

—Ghassan al-Khatib, born in Nablus in 1954. He lectures in economy at the Bi'r Zayt college of the occupied West Bank. Al-Khatib also heads a research center in the occupied territories and has close links with the Communist Party. He was arrested several times and was jailed for four year from 1974-1978.

—Sa'ib 'Urayqat, born in Jericho in 1955. He graduated from American and British universities and is currently an assistant professor of political science at the al-Najah University of Nablus. 'Urayqat also contributes editorials to the Palestinian daily AL-QUDS and has written many books on the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

—Nabil Qassis, born in Ramallah in 1945. He studied physics at the American University of Beirut and is currently vice-chancellor of the Bi'r Zayt University on the West Bank. A Christian, Qassis has no political affiliations.

—Samir 'Abdallah, born in 1950 in Abu Qash on the West Bank. He studied economics in Jordan and Czechoslovakia and currently lectures at the al-Najah University of Nablus. Close to the Communist Party, he was jailed for several months in 1974.

'Arafat: Any Palestinian at Talks Represents PLO

LD2210175691 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat is in Paris. No meeting with Francois Mitterrand is planned for the PLO head, but there will be a meeting with Roland Dumas and, above all, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin. In Yasir 'Arafat's view, this visit has served to prepare for the peace conference in Madrid, which will open eight days from now. He told Jean-Marc Fourre:

[Begin 'Arafat recording in English fading to French translation] We hope that this peace conference will make it possible to establish just and lasting solutions in the Middle East. As far as the composition of the Palestinian delegation is concerned, you know nobody can hide his hands with his fingers. Any Palestinian who is present at this peace conference will represent the PLO, because every Palestinian, wherever he may be from, belongs to the PLO, whether he lives outside the occupied territories or inside the occupied territories.

As for France's role, we have stressed since the beginning how active it should be in this peace conference; and once again, this time, I have asked my friend Roland Dumas to inform President Mitterrand that we need his active intervention, whether it be direct or indirect. [end recording]

'Abd-Rabbuh on Paris Talks, Peace Conference

JN2210203891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1904 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Widad 'Alam-al-Din in Paris on 22 October—recorded]

[Text] ['Alam-al-Din] Welcome, Mr. Yasir.

['Abd-Rabbuh] I welcome you.

['Alam-al-Din] Can you give us an idea about the talks that were held between 'Arafat and Dumas?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The talks were very important, particularly in these days preceding the convening of the peace conference. France highly values the Palestinian position, and stresses that it, and the European position in general, will continue to support the Palestinian stance on the peace process that guarantees Palestinian rights, withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab territories, and the right to self-determination. There is agreement to continue coordination and consultations in the coming period. I can say that there also is understanding for the position of the PLO and the other Arab parties, which extended all facilities to convene the peace conference, now that it is clear that complications come from Israel's side. In these meetings, we stressed that for the peace conference to begin successfully, it must adopt a clear and firm position to immediately stop settlement in the occupied territories, discuss the fundamental issues including the issue of withdrawal and linkage between the stages of the solution to reach the final solution, and provide international protection for the Palestinian people. These issues were also discussed with Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin, who said that the Palestinian position was responsible and was a major factor in rendering the peace efforts successful. He also said that the Soviet Union will continue to pursue the same policy in support of the Palestinian rights, and that the Soviet Union regards a halt to settlement as urgent and necessary, because continued settlement is a mine that could destroy the peace process and conference.

['Alam-al-Din] Yasir 'Abd-Radduh, a question that comes to mind concerns the significance of Pankin's meeting with 'Arafat here in Paris. They were present at the same time in Amman, Damascus, and Cairo, but did not meet.

['Abd-Rabbuh] This is true. In the past days, we met with President al-Asad, King Husayn, and President Mubarak, reaching very important results. The meeting with Soviet Minister Pankin was held here in Paris in view of France's distinct role. France's role was visible in the past, and its importance is increasing as the peace conference approaches. We hope that France and the EC will play an effective role in raising the voice which calls for a halt to settlement in order to begin a discussion of the fundamental issues, the foremost being Jerusalem. Therefore, I can say that this visit has had two objectives: to meet with the Soviet minister, and to consult with French officials.

['Alam-al-Din] A five-way Arab meeting is on the agenda now. How much importance do you attach to it?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We have discussed the matter over the past two days during visits we made to Damascus, Amman, and Cairo. All Arab leaders favor the idea and the aim is to promote a coordinated Arab position ahead of the peace conference. The five-party conference may expand to include all the Arab states going to the peace conference—the Arab Maghreb and the Gulf countries. This is another important step. We want a united Arab stand to secure an integrated, comprehensive solution and preclude separate solutions. We want such an Arab stand that will secure Arab rights before embarking on a discussion of other issues at the multi-party conference. We have found Arab positions to be very close, and intra-Arab understanding complete; a situation that lends itself to a successful five-sided meeting, which we will attend after we leave Paris.

['Alam-al-Din] What about the talks with Lebanon's President Ilyas al-Hirawi?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We had positive talks with President al-Hirawi, who emphasized his support for the Palestinian position on the peace conference and process, especially the need to first address withdrawals and Arab and Palestinian rights before moving on to discuss other issues like economic cooperation, security, and other items on the agenda of what is called the other multi-party conference. We got off to a good start with President al-Hirawi, and we look forward to further contacts as we have agreed in our meeting.

['Alam-al-Din] Is there an Arab consensus on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's proposal calling for Arab parties to walk out if Israel did not return the occupied land in the second stage of the negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In actual fact, the Syrian and Palestinian proposals and other Arab stands are close. All agree that we must focus on issues of substance and that Arab parties must not allow themselves to be dragged into calls for normalization before the withdrawal issues are finalized and Palestinian and Arab rights secured. These are close and united stands that emerged during the visits and contacts we had with Arab leaders. Consequently, the so-called double-track plan whereby Israel seeks to realize normaliztion before withdrawl is assured—indeed at the expense of withdrawal and Arab rights—is something that all concerned Arab parties will not consent to now or in the future. This subject may be discussed at the foreign ministers meeting which we will attend in Damascus tomorrow.

['Alam-al-Din] So you will go from Paris to Damascus?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We will go from Paris to Damascus. Contacts will be maintained with all Arab parties to forge a united front before the peace conference gets underway.

['Alam-al-Din] Thank you.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

PLO Seeks Egyptian Experts' Assistance, Advice

JN2210174591 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 21 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Palestinian sources in Cairo have told AL-BAYAN that the PLO officially asked the Egyptian Government to allow it to seek the assistance of two Egyptian experts, Dr. Mufid Shihab and Muhammad 'Urabi, members of the Egyptian negotiating delegation on the issue of Tabah. The experts would take part in preparing the Palestinian negotiator's documents, and serve as advisers to the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

PFLP, DFLP Figures Discuss Peace Talks

LD2210202191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] If there are those who support and await the peace conference, there are also those who boycott it. A person close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] made the following announcement today regarding anyone who takes part within the framework of the Palestinian delegation: We will turn his life into hell. The official is Riyad al-Maliki. He said: We will send them threatening letters, we will demonstrate in front of their homes until they realize that the future of the Palestinian people is not a toy in their hands. Meanwhile, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] said from Algeria that the conservative wing of the PLO has violated [kasar] resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] by going along with the American formula. Fouziya Dati reports:

[Dati] The press conference took the form of an open dialogue between journalists and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah. The journalists' questions revolved in particular around the stance of this Front toward the peace conference.

[Begin Hawatimah recording] We in the DFLP and in the PFLP, having been partners in the work of the Palestine Central Council, believe that the conservative wing or the conservative tendency in the PLO has violated the resolution of the Palestine National Council and the resolution of the PLO Central Council, and retreated from it in favor of the American formula regarding representation, participation, and the principles of the participation. [end recording]

[Dati] Nayif Hawatimah also spoke about the tripartite statement issued by the PFLP, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Democratic Front. The statement calls for:

[Begin Hawatimah recording] A general comprehensive strike tomorrow, Wednesday 23 October, as an expression of the unity of the Palestinian people and its rejection of the American formula of the peace conference, and its rejection of representation in accordance with the American formula which divides the Palestinian people and confines representation to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

[Dati] As to a question on his expectations from the convening of the conference, he replied:

[Begin Hawatimah recording] The conference in the three days of its meeting is a ceremonial one; it represents nothing. [end recording]

Hawatimah on PLO 'Participation'

LD2310054591 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, by Kamel Alouani—live]

[Text] [Alouani] Welcome to our studios. Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, what do you hope to gain from your stance [that PLO conservatives, by supporting the Middle East peace conference, have violated Palestine National Council resolutions] in these circumstances?

[Hawatimah] We are now working to return to the correct Palestinian national stance: i.e., to return to the decision of the PLO Central Council. We came to that decision in Tunis at dawn last Friday, and it very clearly stipulated that our participation, that of the PLO, in the peace conference depends on three points: first, that the PLO would form and announce its delegation to the peace negotiations and that the negotiating delegation would be from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the diaspora and would be on equal footing with the other delegations; second, that settlements would end with the start of the peace conference; third, that there would be an effective joint delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians on equal footing under Jordanian and Palestinian chairmanship and that the Palestinian delegation would be at the negotiating table and the PLO delegation would be formed from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the diaspora.

The bitter thing that happened, unfortunately, was that this decision of the PLO Central Council has been obliterated and was not announced until this moment. The thing that happened only three hours after this decision was completely the opposite: Brother Faysal al-Husayni informing Mr. Baker in Jerusalem that the Palestinian delegation would be only from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip without Jerusalem and the diaspora; without the unity of the Palestinian people and confining it to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and without the other points related to it. This situation makes the whole matter open to question because the Palestinian people will not be present at the negotiating table as one united people. They have been split into Palestinians only from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This is in complete contradiction to the decision of the Palestinian Central Council.

[Alouani] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, during these crucial minutes, what can Mr. 'Arafat change, in a practical manner, to convince you in one way or another?

[Hawatimah] The issue has nothing to do with convincing us, or us persuading him. Everybody should refer to the PNC's resolution that we have endorsed and act according to the requirements of the Central Council resolution, which states that we are ready to participate in the peace conference with a delegation composed of members from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the diaspora, and who would struggle to extract the right of return to the homeland, the right to self-determination and independence for our people.

Therefore, what is required here is full reference to the decision of the Central Council that we adopted five days ago. We believe the PLO holds the key to peace in the Middle East, and it holds the key to the conference because the essential issue before the conference is the Palestinian issue. What can they discuss without the presence of the Palestinian people, who would be represented by a united delegation? They would only discuss peace for peace, as Shamir states; whereas what they should debate is the issue of land for peace: the Palestinian land. Therefore, the people of Palestine should be present, and we should act according to the decision of the Central Council in order to deal with matters in a national and unified spirit. Otherwise, matters would escalate.

I would like to point out that tomorrow there will be a general strike inside Palestinian occupied territories called for by the Democratic Front, the Popular Front, and Hamas. This strike will spread to Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan to express the unity of the people and its determination to return to the decision of the PLO's Central Council.

Therefore, we are not required to convince brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], nor does he need to persuade us. What is needed from everyone is to refer to the decision of national unity; the decision of the Central Council that is derived from the Palestine National Council resolution.

[Alouani] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, if all the conditions you are talking about do not materialize, where do your relations stand with Hamas, for instance, or with Iran?

[Hawatimah] We have relations with Hamas, but these are basic ones. Similarly, we also have relations with Iran. The problem does not lie here. The problem lies in the need to protect Palestinian national unity within the framework of the PLO on the basis of adhering to the resolutions of legitimate PLO institutions. We met in Algeria as the National Council 20 days ago and made decisions. Then we met in Tunis as the Central Council five days ago and made decisions. The problem is that these decisions are not being respected. There are those who depart from them behind the back of the Central Council, the Executive Committee, and the Palestinian leadership as a collective body. That is the first point.

The second point is: I think that what happened and is happening in Tehran is the other manifestation of the attempts to arrive at a balanced and just peace in the Middle East. But I would frankly say that this other manifestation is more of a conscientious and moral manifestation than a political capability, because it lacks the mechanisms that would transform it into practical issues. We hope that the adopted organizational and practical steps will come to pass because they would strengthen the intifadah, they would strengthen our people and their national cause, and they would push our cause forward. They would strengthen the revolution's position as well as that of the PLO and the intifadah in the struggle for a balanced and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

[Alouani] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, one final question. What is your comment on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's [PFLP] possible course of action, as sources close to the Front say the Front will make anyone's life a hell if they participate in the Palestinian delegation in Madrid?

[Hawatimah] We in the DFLP are against the language of threats and menacing measures toward any struggler. We support the need to return to the people, to the masses, because we believe in openness and democracy. It is up to the Palestinian masses to decide.

You are referring to a statement by a brother close to the PFLP in the context of a news conference held this morning in which 'Ali Abu-Hilal, who is close to the PFLP, and Mahmud al-Zahhar, who is close to Hamas, as well as a large number of national Palestinian figures in Jerusalem took part. They called for a general strike tomorrow as an expression of the people's unity and the need to be represented in the talks by a unified delegation. Therefore, I say that we shall continue our popular course, and it is we who have worked for the success of the decisions that were issued by the National Council and the Central Council.

[Alouani] Thank you, Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, for these clarifications.

Algeria

Socialist Forces Withdraws Confidence in Government

LD2210105791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The Socialist Forces Front decided to withdraw its confidence from the current government. This decision was made following a meeting held yesterday by the party's executive committee to discuss the latest political, social, and economic conditions.

Hocine Ait Ahmed, the party's secretary general, will hold a news conference this afternoon to talk about this matter.

Court Rejects Release of Islamic Detainees

LD1210212691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Blida court stated that the prosecution rejected the request made by the defense team of the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] leaders for their temporary release and for the lifting of the custody order for the benefit of their clients, who include Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. APS reports that the prosecution met today at its normal offices to look into the aforementioned requests before issuing a statement to confirm the order issued by the investigating military judge. Members of the defense team told the agency that they were expecting the rejection. They added that they had stressed from the outset that the case they were defending was of a political nature and, consequently, its settlement would be political.

Islamic Front Spokesman on Election Strategy

PM2110155391 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Oct 91 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh Rabih Kabir, official in charge of political affairs and foreign relations in the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front, by Mustafa Sawwaq in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sawwaq] Will the Islamic Front participate in the legislative elections, whose date has been announced by the president of the republic?

[Kabir] The legislative elections are important to us. As we devote to it the interest the elections deserve, we reject the elections on 27 June because they are based on unjust laws. We expressed our protest against that in the form of a strike, which all knew about and which resulted in the repression of which you are aware. The country is now experiencing a serious crisis. It would have been more proper to clear the political atmosphere by releasing the detainees, reinstating those who have been dismissed from their jobs, and compensating the victims and those who have been harmed. All these things should be radically resolved. We will be encouraged to advance toward participating in the elections once we see that there is positive political development toward clearing the political atmosphere and toward reconciliation among Algerians. The decision on that question belongs to the National Shura Council [majles al-shura al-watani], which is watching developments.

[Sawwaq] So you have not officially announced your boycott of the elections?

[Kabir] Not yet. No boycott of the elections has been officially announced, nor has it been officially announced that we will take part. [passage omitted]

[Sawwaq] What is your real position on the question of holding the presidential election before the legislative elections?

[Kabir] That is one of our demands, because we believe that, if they are held before the presidential election, the legislative elections could prove futile. We have had experience in local elections of powers being withdrawn once these elections were over. We fear that what happened in the past could happen again and that powers could be withdrawn from the deputies if the legislative elections are held before the presidential election. They could end up in prison like the leaders of the elected councils. That is why we demand that the presidential election be held before or coincide with the legislative elections. [passage omitted]

[Sawwaq] Contacts are said to be held between the authorities and the Islamic Front. What is the nature of these contacts?

[Kabir] There are contacts between the Islamic Salvation Front and the regime. They have not been interrupted, but their nature differs from one stage to another. For our part, we want what is in this country's interests, Algeria's interests. As for the nature of these contacts, their aim is to find a formula for clearing the political atmosphere.

[Sawwaq] How would you assess the Islamic Front after the recent events?

[Kabir] The conspiracy that targeted the front was a major one, though it affected the Shura Council and not its grass roots.

Official Views Implementation of IMF Agreement

LD2110055491 Algiers APS in English 1131 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Algiers, Oct 19 (APS)—The agreement concluded between Algeria and the International Monetary Fund in April is witnessing a beginning of implementation mainly in the monetary and financial fields through a devaluation of the dinar and the very recent increase of some basic consumption goods.

Concerning some products that were supported by the government, minister delegate for trade, Ahmed Foudil Bay, said the increase of their prices is motivated by three reasons. According to the minister, the increase relies on the agreement signed with the IMF on September 30, which readjusts the areement of April [words indistinct] by the preceding government. The agreement provides that the Algerian Government must take the necessary measures so as to reduce by three billion dinars the compensation funds, the minister explained.

According to Foudil Bay, in the particularly difficult negotiations which were held with the IMF in August and September, Algeria managed to obtain a reduction of 900 million dinars in comparison with the objectives of the IMF.

In addition to the provisions of the agreement with the IMF, the level of expenses of the compensation fund also explains the increase of prices decided by the government. In this context, Foudil Bay said the level of 52 billion dinars expected in 1991 for the compensation of prices and the agricultural products for the compensation of transports costs for the southern regions have become worrying. In order to put an end to this increase, the government has decided to introduce a new system of support not of prices but of support of low salaries and families without [word indistinct].

The devaluation of the national currency was the third factor at the origin of the increase of prices. Between 1990 and 1992, the dinar was devaluated by 177 percent which means that the present dinar can not buy the same quantity of products the dinar could buy two years ago, the minister said.

The government then found itself in front of a dilema, he said. Either to reduce the import of food and then create shortages with threats of social explosion or take the risk to slightly increase the prices to decrease the level of support and at the same time incite to a better use of consumption.

However one wonders if this price [words indistinct] not in contradiction with the veto decided by the People's National Assembly (APN) to freeze the prices during the adoption of the 1991 complementatry finance bill in August 1991. According to minister delegate for trade, the APN has not as a mission to define the level of prices which is a prerogative of the government in conformity with the law on prices promuglated in 1989.

Japanese Bank Grants $300 Million in Loans

LD2010134691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] A Japanese bank, Ex-Im [Export-Import] Bank, granted Algeria a loan the value of $300 million to prepare and restructure the financial institutions and sectors of Algeria. The Japanese loan is part of a joint financial operation granted by the World Bank to Algeria last June.

Egypt

Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin Arrives in Cairo

NC2110134291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a one-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak. Pankin will also hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on Middle East developments in light of the Madrid peace conference, scheduled for 30 October.

Begins Talks With Musa

NC2110190591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian-Soviet talks under Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin began at the Foreign Ministry this evening.

The talks will deal with the latest developments in the Middle East situation, the efforts being made to maintain the momentum in the peace process, and the Egyptian and Soviet roles in promoting these efforts, particularly prior to the meeting of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid on 30 October.

Meets With President Mubarak

NC2210091591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Vladimir Polyakov.

Musa, Pankin Brief Media

NC2210140291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Soviet counterpart, Boris Pankin, held a news conference today following the Soviet foreign minister's meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning.

Musa said that President Mubarak and the Soviet foreign minister exchanged views on the peace process and preparations for the 30 October Madrid Middle East peace conference. He added: The Soviet foreign minister briefed us on his country's stand on the peace conference, its arrangements, and contacts. The future of Soviet-Arab relations in general and Soviet-Egyptian relations in particular, were also discussed.

The Soviet foreign minister said his meeting with Mubarak was cordial and friendly during the talks on

Egyptian-Soviet relations and questions pertaining to the peace process and the Madrid conference.

He briefed President Mubarak on developments in the Soviet Union. He sensed President Mubarak, who happily recalled a visit there, was deeply interested in Soviet events. He added that the meeting underlined the two countries' desire to boost relations and to continue cooperating on peace and in the global arena.

Pankin said the Soviet Union considers Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 necessary for peace. He said discussions are now focusing on implementing the resolutions during the negotiations and within the peace conference framework.

The Soviet foreign minister stressed the need to negotiate instead of making mutual accusations and statements, adding that the Soviet Union believes its task is to help develop peace proceedings and to try to ensure its success.

Pankin said it is up to the parties participating in the conference to decide on the arrangement for discussing the status of Jerusalem. He added: It is not right to set preconditions on the eve of the conference. All parties should concentrate on a solution at the beginning, then it is possible to move on to the more difficult issues, including Jerusalem. He said that it is impossible to resolve all the issues and problems during the first two weeks of the conference.

Pankin said it would be possible to consider inviting the Arab League to the conference.

On Syria's stand on regional issues and the Soviet Union's role in convincing Syria to participate in the third stage of the conference—regional problems—Pankin was satisfied with Syria's participation. He noted that the Syrian leadership has played an important and constructive role and tried to overcome obstacles to the conference. He added: It is important that all parties participate in the third stage. We conveyed this to everyone involved because we believe that no pressure should be exerted. This matter is each country's independent decision.

Pankin said there are no particular Soviet-U.S. agreements not to arm some of the region's countries, particularly Syria and Israel, during the conference because the permanent Security Council members are negotiating worldwide arms export, including the Middle East. He added: Our stand here is constructive and we strongly support the need to ban or gradually reduce arms. If the forthcoming peace conference achieves a positive result then the region's arms trade could end.

Asked if the Soviet Union now has a pressure tool to bring about Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, Pankin said: Our possibilities for influencing Israeli stands are undoubtedly increasing. In the joint communique we signed in Israel on restoring diplomatic relations, we explained that we took this step to develop the peace process in the region and this will further the process, establishing strong peace.

On regional negotiations and any link with bilateral relations, Pankin said: Naturally, these two types of bilateral and multilateral negotiations fall within the framework of the peace conference. This is on the agenda. There is no clear link between the two issues and there are no preconditions. He added: Before the multilateral negotiations start, participants should talk to each other and decide how to begin and continue negotiating.

Pankin Ends Visit, Departs

NC2210122291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin left Cairo today after a 24-hour visit to Egypt as part of a Middle East tour that took him to Syria, Jordan, and Israel. President Husni Mubarak and the Soviet minister discussed the international peace conference to be held in Madrid on 30 October. Pankin also met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss bilateral relations. Musa saw off Pankin at Cairo International Airport.

Musa Meets U.S., USSR Envoys on Conference

NC2210191191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov. Following the meeting, Musa said they discussed issues related to and preparations for the peace conference which will be held in Madrid on 30 October.

Minister Musa said Egypt has held intensified contacts in the past few days to give impetus to the peace process, prepare for the peace conference, and attempt to overcome the obstacles which hinder a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The foreign minister continued that the meeting in Damascus tomorrow among the foreign ministers of the five Arab states who are directly concerned with the Middle East crisis will be dedicated to coordinating Arab stands during the Madrid peace conference.

Musa remarked that another meeting will be held tomorrow, Thursday, among the foreign ministers of the five Arab states and representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb countries, which agreed to participate in the conference.

Meets With PLO's Qaddumi

NC2210190191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has met with Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO's

Political Department. Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah attended the meeting.

Qaddumi later stated that the meeting was within the framework of the constant coordination and consultations, adding that they discussed the Arab stand and coordination of positions prior to the peace conference. He added that the meeting in Damascus tomorrow among the foreign ministers of the concerned countries was arranged upon a resolution by the Arab League Ministerial Council to coordinate Arab stands and prepare for the peace conference. He said the meeting will discuss various issues in addition to those concerning the Arab position.

Al-Asad Calls Mubarak, Discusses Arab Issues

NC2110112391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad called President Husni Mubarak and the two leaders discussed Arab issues and coordination on the Madrid peace conference.

Mubarak Notes Need for Arab Coordination

NC2110220191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2049 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt is continuing to play a role to ensure the success of the peace conference and achievement of complete and total agreement on just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He said that Egypt will take part in the peace conference as a participant and in the bilateral negotiations as an observer.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH to be published 22 October, President Mubarak stressed the need for Arab coordination before going to Madrid. He said: Within this framework I received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and held telephone contacts with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and am holding contacts with all the Arab and international parties.

The president said that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will deliver Egypt's speech at the peace conference in Madrid. The Egyptian role will not end at this point, he said. Egypt will continue to play an effective role throughout the difficult and long negotiations that will take place after the conference with a view to narrowing the differences in views and overcoming any disagreements that may crop up. President Mubarak warned against any differences in views that may take place, in good faith, because of the absence of coordination. He said: It is not true that the five Arab states of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine are the only ones that will attend the conference, as there will also be the Gulf Cooperation Council member states and Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania from the Arab Maghreb. This demands coordination among us, he said. AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that contacts are currently taking place to prepare for the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states that will be attending the Madrid conference. These are Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine, as well as the six Gulf states and four Arab Maghreb states. Syria is assuming a main role in these contacts to convene the meeting within the next few days before the Madrid conference. The meeting will most probably be held in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Denies Possible Cabinet Reshuffle

NC2210125791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has denied there will be a cabinet reshuffle, adding that all such reports are rumors that surface every season, namely during September, October, and November. In statements to Samir Rajab, editor-in-chief of the Cairo newspaper AL-MASA', published today, President Mubarak said: "I only remove those who fail in their posts." President Mubarak said that the present cabinet members work competently.

He said his meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday was important because positive moves on the Middle East continue, particularly the peace conference, for which we have long struggled.

Libya

Foreign Liaison Bureau Condemns Prague Hijacking

LD2210084691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA)—A spokesman for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has made a statement on yesterday's hijacking of a Czechoslovak TV-134 plane at Prague Airport.

He said that the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah denounces and condemns this act of hijacking and will not permit the hijacked plane to land at any of Libya's airports or fly in its airspace. He added that should the plane be forced to land in the Great Jamahiriyah, the hijacker will be arrested and put on trial.

Al-Qadhdhafi Gives Anniversary Address

LD1910162491 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Banghazi on the 80th anniversary of the Al-Jazirah Jiryan battle for Jilyana Island against the Italians; broadcast in progress—live]

[Excerpts] At the hands of a member state of the United Nations: America, which should have been responsible for world peace and the prevention of aggression, instead of threatening world peace and committing aggression against the small and weak peoples. We did not believe that there was any reason at all for America to attack Banghazi or Tripoli, and for children and civilians to be killed in their sleep. This has happened in the recent past, in 1986. [passage omitted] Thus, an aggression took place against this city 80 years ago, an unjust aggression which was deterred only by the popular resistance of this city and people.

Almost 70 years later the aggression against this city was repeated, in 1986; that was also unjust and unjustified, and it was only deterred by our resistance. I want the Libyan inhabitants of this city to understand that aggression could be repeated, but what we rely on is our strength, our determination, and our belief that we have the right to live freely on our land. [passage omitted]

The shelling of Lebanon still continues, and bases are being established once again in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Mecca. Who would have believed that Mecca would become a protectorate, under American protection! This was unexpected because it is shameful, because it is sacrosanct. But, it did happen. Mecca is now under American protection. When it was subjected to Iraqi invasion, the American forces immediately defended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where Mecca lies at its heart. Mecca is an indivisible part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the whole of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is under American protection. This has happened before the eyes of the whole world; it is not a secret agreement. Hundreds of thousands of American forces are in the Gulf region. Thus, bases could return, colonialism could return, treachery and tyranny could return.

Then they attacked us in 1986; even now there is no evidence against Libya to justify this aggression. The latest thing they said is that you in 1986, they told us, you in the recent past blew up the Berlin nightclub in which there were hundreds of U.S. soldiers. A year or two after the aggression [against Libya], it became clear that the one who blew up the nightclub was a side which has no connection with Libya. We challenged them: Provide evidence against Libya [for incidents] in Rome, or Berlin, or any place. They could not. They said we have the evidence and that is it. Why not present it to the world? They could not. Until this moment I challenge them to present any evidence that Libya is committing any terrorist action. We practice terrorism? We are the victims of terrorism!! [passage omitted]

Now do not think that they would, just like that, create justifications for committing aggression against you once again. The only justification is that imperialism now wants to dominate the world. It lies and fabricates whatever it wants in order to wage an aggression. This is what happened in the past. What did the town of Berghazie do on such a day in 1911 as to deserve being destroyed by scores of Italian warships. [passage omitted]

The West considers us to be savages, berbers, enemies of Christ, enemies of the Church. This is the Crusades continued. We are not enemies of Christ. We say God bless Christ, and we recognize him as a prophet. But they do not recognize Muhammad as a prophet. They say Muhammad is a liar and a charlatan. But we do not say Christ was a liar or a charlatan. We say Christ is God's prophet. We also date things from the birth of Christ as we do from the death of Muhammad, the last of the prophets. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, the peoples of Europe and the peoples of America, even if they are goodhearted, are naive and foolish and know nothing. They believe everything they are told by the imperialist and Zionist circles which dominate the means of economy and the information media.

American public opinion believes anything any Zionist paper writes. When, for example, they see Al-Qadhdhafi stand on a heap of corpses on their television screens, they believe it to be true. They do not realize that this was Zionist imperialist propaganda. Thus, they form a false public opinion.

Brothers, this danger continues. The mistakes we have committed in the past should not be repeated. First, when the Italians attacked us in this city, on 19 October 1911, and when they attacked Al-Jazirah, our plan of resistance and confrontation was not sound. The Libyans lagged behind in military mobilization compared to the European West. [passage omitted]

What should have been done was that the strugglers in Banghazi should not have stayed within range of the Italian warships. We should have done what the Russians did against Napoleon. [passage omitted]

What happened at the Al-Jazirah battle was a tragedy through which we lived. As I have seen in the register of martyrs today, some families offered large numbers of martyrs. This fact is not written by me but by history. These families are now living in Banghazi, and so what happened is a fact. It is not a myth. [passage omitted]

The same thing could happen again. Our defense and resistance must be modern and of a very high standard so that we can defeat the enemy.

The United States might attack us. It is a mad power. It attacked us in 1986 without any justification. It might attack you again without any justification.

But we would never surrender, as Iraq did. That would be wrong. There are no orders [expression said to have been given by the Iraqi forces for not seizing Jerusalem from the Jews in 1948]. How can it be said there are no orders?

When necessary, one million combatants should line up on the Libyan shores so it will be difficult for any enemy to tread on our soil. If he does so then his foot will be severed. We would do so not by words but through preparation. [passage omitted]

This is essential. The Americans attacked us with their aircraft and missiles. These were devastating and far away, and you could watch them. But the bases from which the aircraft and missiles took off were in Europe. Hence Europe must be attacked. How often have I said this? If we are capable of attacking Europe, then we must do so so that it will refuse to have its lands used for aggression against Libya.

The current Arab situation in which we are commemorating these battles is very bad. [passage omitted] All of them have surrendered the Arab homeland and passed away.

Now, though Arab rulers are ruling the Arab countries they are no more than another picture of Murad Pasha, Hassunah Pasha, Muhammad 'Ali Pasha, and Jamal the excecutioner Pasha [the Ottoman rulers of the Arab countries]. Those who are ruling the Arab countries at present are poor people living in bad conditions. You must be aware of this fact. [passage omitted] They are poor and do not know which way the waves take them. Contacts were going on between themselves and myself until yesterday—the good ones of them, the naive ones, and the conspiring ones. They do not know what is going on.

The Americans have told them that there will be a peace conference—but where? In Madrid. It transpired that it will be held in Madrid. But why Madrid? They said this is because Madrid was the city from which the Arabs were expelled, and so the peace conference is being held in Madrid to expel the Arabs from Palestine.

What will the conference do? They said it will solve the Palestine question.

They told the Israelis: How do you envisage the solution of the Palestine problem; what are you prepared to give us? The Israelis said: What shall we give you? Come on, recognize us and go. You have heard the Israelis' reply. They said: What shall we give you? You should be the ones to give us. The Arabs said: What shall we give you? The Israelis replied: Recognition. Recognize us and get on and we will not bother you. Since you have recognized us, we will no longer strike at Damascus, Beirut, or Amman.

This is the Palestine question. They asked what was the Palestine problem. See the resolution. On what basis are you meeting? They said on the basis of Resolution 242. They said that Resolution 242 talks of Palestinian refugees; it does not talk of a Palestinian people. Since the question is one of refugees, we are ready to help. Let them settle in Canada, the United States, or the island [name indistinct]. Settle them in Brunei. Those who do not want to settle in any of these places, make them settle in the Arab countries.

This is Resolution 242, on the basis of which they will be meeting the day after tomorrow or after that. This resolution deals with the Palestinians as refugees and not as a people.

The Arabs asked: What about the Palestinian state? The Jews said: What Palestinian State? There is no such thing as a Palestinian state? This is Israel. The Arabs asked: What about Jerusalem? They told them Jerusalem is a unified Jewish capital and will remain so for eternity.

They asked the Arabs: With whom will negotiations take place? The Arabs replied: We will negotiate with the people concerned. They asked: And who are the people concerned? The Arabs said: the Palestinians. But the Jews said: There are no Palestinians. The Americans said: There are no Palestinians.

Well, with whom then will negotiations be held? They said they will negotiate with the countries they want to recognize Israel—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. We want Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon to recognize us and so we want to negotiate with them.

What about the Arab Maghreb? The conference organization said: What about the Arab Maghreb? They said: Well, let them come, thank you. If they come and recognize, then thank you. We would be grateful if the recognition covered the countries of North Africa and the Gulf countries, too. We will be grateful also if the Gulf countries recognize us too. We were not ambitious enough to expect the Arab Maghreb and the Gulf countries to recognize Israel. We were anxious to see Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan recognize Israel. But since you, the people of the Gulf and the people of the Arab Maghreb, have volunteered to recognize Israel, then we would be thankful and grateful, and we will address an invitation to you.

Yesterday they sent an invitation to their excellencies in the Arab Maghreb to attend in order to recognize Israel. The Arab Gulf ought also to attend to recognize Israel. Yesterday they were happy in both the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb; they were celebrating. They were happy about the fact that they were invited by America which told them to attend the ceremony [marking] the recognition of Israel. They might retort by stating that what I am saying is untrue; it is not going to be a ceremony to recognize Israel; it is rather to resolve the Middle East problem. Well, let us wait and see. Israel has asserted Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Jewish state.

The rest of the Arabs told us: No, there is a Palestinian state. We told them to go and ask the Israelis if they do really recognize a Palestinian state. The Israelis said: We do not even recognize the PLO because it is a terrorist and criminal [organization]. How can you then ask us about a Palestinian state? Never.

So we asked the Israelis: What are you going to do? They said: Palestinians will remain Israeli citizens with their own autonomy under Israeli occupation. We only recognize autonomy for the Palestinians under Israeli occupation and as Israeli citizens, they added.

All right. Is this then the solution to the problem of the Palestinian people?

The Arabs asked: Are you going to give us back the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? Their answer was: You must be kidding; they are called Judaea and Samaria and not the West Bank and Gaza. The Israelis said, furthermore, that they did not even call it the West Bank. For them it is Samaria, a land of Israel, and Judaea, a land of Israel. They stated that Judaea and Samaria had been colonized and now they are liberated. They even claimed that Sinai was an integral part of Israel and therefore they must reclaim it one day. They are readying themselves to return to Sinai and recapture it by force once more if they can. We call them the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and they say there is no West Bank and Gaza Strip. You only call them the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but they are really called Judaea and Samaria, that is, Jewish names. They called it Judaea to affirm the fact that it is part of their land.

Brothers, what have the Jews who have come from the Soviet Union got to do with Palestine? Is it because their religion is Judaism? And the Jews who have come from Europe—what have they got to do with Palestine? What has the Jew who comes from America to do with Palestine? His land is America? The Falashas are Ethiopians whose land is in Africa. What have they got to do with Palestine so that they should come to it? This is oppression, subjugation, insolence, and an historic mockery that has surpassed all other mockeries being implemented now on Arab land against the Arab nation, and anyone participating in it is a traitor and an agent. The Arab masses should be aware and should understand that it is a dangerous game and a dangerous conspiracy against the future of the Arab nation in favor of Zionism and imperialism.

We are not at all afraid to tell the truth, whose costly price we may pay for the sake of this nation. We cannot resort to flattery with regard to the future of the Arab nation. America is implementing a project which America itself does not believe in. America is gathering the Arabs and the Israelis around one table to negotiate, despite the occupation and the sacrifices which total hundreds of thousands. America does not believe in negotiations. If it does believe in negotiations, then why does it not negotiate with Libya? We challenge America to sit at a table with the Libyans and establish relations of equality between us without interference in internal affairs, and to have mutual benefits between the Libyan and American peoples [words indistinct]

America refuses to negotiate with Libya and compels the Arabs to negotiate with their bitter enemy—so-called Israel. If America (?believes) in negotiation between enemies, we challenge it to decide to hold negotiations with Libya. America said that it cannot negotiate with Libya. Why? It said because Libya is a revolutionary state. Why do we not say that we do not negotiate with the Israelis because they are terrorists? America said because there is public opinion—the American Government said public opinion does not allow it to negotiate with Libyans.

All right, how about those Arab leaders who are going to be negotiating with the Israelis? Do they not have an Arab public opinion against such negotiations? Otherwise, the Arab nation will be like a herd under America's orders. The American people are also human. This means that there is an American public opinion which is respected and an Arab public opinion which is not respected. Arab public opinion is against any negotiation with the Israelis. Arab peoples say no peace, no negotiations, no recognition, and no renunciation of the Palestinian cause, no matter what the price. This is the opinion of the Arab peoples. This is the opinion of the Jordanian people, the Lebanese people, the Syrian people, the Maghreban peoples, and the Arab Peninsula peoples. This is their opinion, their voice, and their stance. It is the right stance.

Therefore, those who are going to be negotiating will be doing so against the (?interests) of the Arab peoples and against Arab public opinion.

America respects its own public opinion. We do not respect our own public opinion. Why? I challenge them. I challenge them to hold a referendum in Tunisia. A referendum on whether the Tunisian people agree to negotiations with the Israelis, and on whether Tunisia should attend the conference or not. I challenge them to hold a referendum in Algeria and a referendum in Morocco, a referendum on whether the Moroccan people agree that Morocco should negotiate with the Israelis under the circumstances or not. Go and hold a referendum in Libya, a referendum on whether the Libyans should allow their country to go to Madrid to negotiate with the Israelis or not. Go and hold a referendum in Syria, in Jordan, in Lebanon, and in the Arab Peninsula. Let everyone hold a referendum to see what the Arab peoples would say.

If a Libyan wants negotiations he should convene congresses to say that he wants to attend the negotiations. Do you, Libyans, want negotiations? Do you want to go to Madrid? Then please convene your congresses in the open air and freely decide that you want to enter negotiations and to send a Libyan representative to attend such a conference. Please do so. As far as I am concerned I will respect the Libyan people and its will. I am not like those who treat [their people] like a herd of sheep.

America has been saying to the world that it will not negotiate with Libya because American public opinion is against any negotiation with Libya. Excuse me, I cannot negotiate as an administrative [as heard].

You, the American administration, which respects your own people and your people's public opinion, and thereby cannot negotiate with Libya: Why not say there is Arab public opinion against any negotiations with the Israelis, a matter which should be taken into consideration before anything else. No, Arab public opinion is not important and Arab leaders would not think about their peoples and listen to their opinions.

In fact, I would like to warn the Americans that King Abdallah [of Jordan] was killed because he was negotiating with the Israelis. King Faruq was toppled because he was conspiring against Palestine. King Faysal II was toppled in Baghdad because he was conspiring, within the framework of the Baghdad Pact, against Palestine. The Sanusi era finished in Libya because it betrayed the Palestinian cause. Wasfi al-Tal [former Jordanian premier] was killed because he was conspiring against the Palestinian cause.

A whole list of traitors, including kings and prime ministers, were downed by the Jamahir because they were conspiring against the Palestinian cause.

I am warning my brothers in the Arab East, in the Arab Maghreb, and in the Arab Gulf; I am only warning them that they should be aware of their own peoples and of this [Arab] nation, whom they are treating with contempt and as if it were a herd of sheep. They should remember that it was this nation that liquidated King Abdallah and (?toppled) King Faruq, Faysal, Sanusi, and others.

Now they do not care. They consider their peoples to be flocks of sheep and squander their rights and surrender. But, the day will come when the peoples will prove to America, to Israel, and to the Arab rulers that they are not flocks of sheep as they see them.

I can affirm to you, brothers, that the peoples are against the negotiations and against the conference. The negotiations Jordan will be holding are contrary to the will of the Jordanian people.

By God, I respected America when the American government said as a government that it had no objection to negotiating with the Libyans, but the American people will not permit it to negotiate with Libya at present. Why? Because there are a number of accusations made against Libya. Of course, these accusations are false and are only believed by naive people such as the American and European peoples. They believe everything published in the papers or broadcast on television. They readily believe them.

Indeed, they do not know where Libya is situated. But they believe anything said against Libya. These lies are false and intentionally spread by imperialism and Zionism.

By God, I have respected the American Government because it showed respect for its people. It said to the Libyans: I have no objection to negotiating with you, but my people would not let me because you, the Libyans, are accused of being against America and are revolutionaries.

Do the Arab leaders invited to go to Madrid not have an Arab public opinion opposed to going to Madrid? They have. Why then do we not respect Arab public opinion? Here lies the difference: as though the Arabs are flocks of sheep while the Americans are human beings.

I know that this talk and Libya's revolutionary position might lay some responsibilities upon us, that Libyans are evil people and are looking for justifications. But these are matters of destiny. We prefer to die rather than squander them. Tomorrow, the Americans might attack us and bomb us with their aircaft, missiles, and even with their atomic bombs . But why? Because we refused to submit, concede, or bow or squander. Though we cannot liberate Palestine now, we would never say that Palestine was not ours.

Palestine from the river to the sea. We do not accept a state on earth on a religious basis at all. This is a backward, Zionist, Crusader call. We, as civilized people, are opposed to setting up a state on a religious basis. Otherwise we set up a state for the Buddhists and another for the Sikhs, and we accept the partition of India on a religious basis; Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and the Untouchables [as heard] must all have a state each in India; and the Muslim blacks, the Catholics, the Jews, and the Protestants must all have a state each in the United States.

If we accept the partition of the world on a religious basis the first country that should be partitioned is the United States. It should be partitioned between the Muslims, the Jews, and others. The second country should be India. Thus we would begin partitioning the world on a religious basis. But that would be absurd. Therefore, the setting up of the state of Israel on a religious basis is absurd. This is a post-Second World War phenomenon to satisfy the Jews and to spite Hitler. We the Arabs cannot pay its price.

What I am saying is obviously true and even after one year will [word indistinct] but I am saying it at one of the worst times brothers; the phase of submission, humiliation, fear, and prostration on the part of Arab rulers. Let the Arab peoples from the ocean to the Gulf hear that their rulers are prostrate, humiliated [words indistinct].

When we announce the will of the Arab nation and say no, they try to make us pay the price. But by God, we would rather pay the price than proceed like the deaf, like a deaf person landing in disaster. He cannot hear what people are saying and does not know from where danger is coming. By God, Arab rulers are deaf and going with the current. I cannot be deaf and go with the current at all. I cannot kill the Libyan people at all; the Libyan people can die in martyrdom, not in prostration [words indistinct].

Yes, we have to be ready for martyrdom. We have to struggle until Judgment Day against America and any other power. No matter what they might possess, we are capable of struggling, brothers, from one valley to another, one village to another, one oasis to another.

We have been preparing ourselves for a fight; we have been training and we have learned invaluable lessons from our own history, which is full of sacrifice and battles for the sake of freedom. Therefore, it will not be easy to annihilate us and suppress us.

O youth, particularly those who are chanting, you should not only make noise; you should be ready to hold rifles, launchers, and guns tomorrow. You should transform your own houses and streets into trenches. You ought to be on your guard; noise is not enough.

We would like to state the following: The first thing we would like to tell them is that we want peace. How many times have we repeated that we love peace? Who does not love peace and who wants war? Only a mad person would love war, for it is inconceivable otherwise. However, one should not confuse capitulation with peace. What we are witnessing today is capitulation; they have given up everything. They have recognized Israel and lifted the boycott against it, as if that is the end of the matter. Alright. Look, this is a Zionist state. Should we then recognize it, lift the boycott against it, and allow it to live as a state and among us, infiltrating us. This is the the original aim of Zionism: to create a greater state from the Euphrates to the Nile, a nation which is unable to resist. In this respect I do not know what is the matter with it. It has 300 million bold men. Why does it not sacrifice one million every year? What is the matter with this nation which has been digging its own grave? Its members die every day through car accidents, cancer, and the use of hashish and heroin. So why do you not die resisting? This is one nation from the ocean to the Gulf. We do not need America, nor do we want Europe. We do not want the Mediterranean or the Atlantic ocean. We only want to live upon the land God has created for us—a land between the ocean and the Gulf—as free men and ready to cooperate with America and Europe and everyone else, save Israel, imperialism, and colonialism. We do not like arrogance. This is all we wanted.

That is denied us now. There is now submission, surrender, and recognition of the enemy against our own will, against your will; you say war is not for me. [Word indistinct] O Palestinian, [word indistinct] Haifa and Jaffa and say they are Jewish and Israeli and I have nothing to do with them. This is what is required of you now. In this case, is not death better?

They say that Libya's stance exposes it to danger; 100 dangers. By God, it is better to die than to walk in this caravan of contempt.

Brothers, they have hundreds of millions, they have capabilities, so why not struggle? [sentence as heard] [words indistinct]

Everything I am saying will be interpreted tomorrow by Arab reactionaries and America's stooges, by America and Zionism, as a call for war, as a call against peace, as rejection; such an interpretation would be nonsense. To tell the truth and say that I want peace, that I want to live free in my land, and that I want to negotiate with you, that is what you are required not to say. No, you negotiate with your enemy and recognize him and concede your land; you say my land is not mine, my house is not mine, my farm in Palestine is not mine.

Come to Madrid, you Palestinian, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], come and sign in Madrid and say 'Akko is Jewish, Haifa is Jewish, Balladin is Jewish, Palestine is Jewish, our homes for the Jews, our farms for the Jews, our women for the Jews, our honor for the Jews; Abu 'Ammar: Sign a statement and we will recognize you and say that you are a man of peace.

What kind of peace is that? It is a curse. Is it reasonable that we should go to Madrid and say that 'Akko is Jewish, not Arab? Would anyone accept that? [words indistinct] they say: We do not know Palestine at all. What about the map? You say Palestine is Arab and they say there is no such thing as Palestine. [passage omitted]

I tell you brothers, the Libyan people are free people. They challenge the Arab rulers who act without mandate from their own peoples; without mandate from their own peoples. (?I say that if) the Libyan people want to enter into negotiations in Madrid, they can as of tomorrow convene general people's congresses in the open air. We say this on the air so that they can hear it. If the Libyan people want to go to the negotiations, they can go. I am not going to stop them.

I am talking about a fateful issue which is of concern to the Arab nation and the world, namely the issue of peace based on justice. As for falsehood, farce, and idle talk, which the Americans utter every day, these will not decide the destiny of the world.

America said : Al-Qadhdhafi attacked us on the opening of the Great Man-Made River and this has made the situation more complex. Brothers, did I attack America at the opening of the Great Man-Made River? I said: America attacked us with 170 warplanes at the moment when this modern and humanitarian project was being planned. Instead of taking part with us with the sum of 170 billion [currency not specified], it took part with 170 raids. America is a big power. We said to them that America ought to have contributed to the Great Manmade River by providing a few billions to the Libyan people. Instead, America contributed with air raids to destroy us while we were building this river.This is what I said. I said to them: Here you are. The water has reached its destination despite the raids and the 20-year siege against us; we built the river. I said to them: The surge of the river and its water is stronger than the roar of America's fleets and its challenges and its siege. These are my words.

But America went to complain to Egypt and to the other Arab states. It told them: Al-Qadhdhafi attacked America at the opening of the Great Man-Made River. This (?behavior) does not help in clearing the air and restoring relations. Is this an attack on America? These were facts and we stated them. America was embarrassed by embarking on this barbaric raid. It has no one else to blame. [passage indistinct]

If America is embarrassed by carrying out a barbarous and unjustified raid against a peaceful people, then America must blame itself, the camp of aggression against nations. It must not blame Libya which said a (?murderous) raid was carried out against me. I am responsible for what I say. I believe the Libyan people agree with me.

By God, we want peace by virtue of peace. If the Israelis want to leave Israel, we shall not tell them to come back so that we can fight you. They are welcome to leave so that Palestine reverts back to its owners and the Jews go back to their countries. The Jews have to be respected in any part of the world. I do not think this is terrororist talk, or that it is unbalanced or superficial. If the Jews want to go back to their countries, they are welcome to that. If Libyan Jews want to come back to Libya, they are welcome to. Let them leave Palestine for the Palestinians.

Eastern Jews who have been in Palestine for ages, let them stay. Soviet Jews, let them return to the Soviet Union. Ethiopian Jews, let them return to Ethiopia. Arab Jews, let them go back to the Arabs. European Jews, let them go back to Europe. That is the sound solution. It is wrong if the Jews are persecuted in America, Europe, the Soviet Union, and Ethiopia. We are against persecution. Why do they persecute the Jews? Just because they are Jews? We support the Jews that they may live equal to other non-Jewish citizens in any part of the world. Persecution of the Jews in any part of the world is racism and crusading; it is barbarism, and we are against it. But not at our own expense. [passage omitted]

Rome is Rome and Banghazi is Banghazi. Banghazi is Arab and Rome is Italian. Where today is the (?flag) which was flying? Italy today feels shame because it murdered innocent people in this place. It feels shame because it (?enslaved) peaceful people. America will one day or one of its generations will one day feel shame because it committed aggression, intimidation, the deployments of fleets and bases everywhere, conspiring against the freedom of the peoples and the free sons of the peoples throughout the world.

An American generation will one day come along and feel shame in the same way that France is today feeling shame. Today, when the French president meets the Algerian president, he bows his head because he used to tell him: Your country is part of my land. One million martyrs. One and half million Algerians were murdered by the French. Today, when the French president meets the Algerian president he feels embarrassed and he bows his head. Why? Because he committed a crime: he occupied his land. He murdered one and half million innocent children, women, and civilians.

Today, Italy feels shame. It feels shame. Today they all express bitterness about that period. They say: we were savages. Please do not blame us for the Italy of 1903. It was barbaric and savage. We are ashamed of that miserable generation. Curse Mussolini; Curse (?Bodoglio); curse the king of Italy. They all have been saying this.

The Italians are today cursing that generation. This is something great. The Italians curse the Italians. Because the action of the generation before them was a shameful action and barbaric, colonial, flagrant, and unjust aggression against a peaceful people.

One day even an American generation will come and curse this generation which is deploying bases and fleets and terrorising the peoples and conspiring against their freedom everywhere. An American generation will come which will feel shame in front of mankind because their history is black and (?full) of aggression.

What is happening in Palestine today is a flagrant and unjust aggression. It must be resisted and not negotiated with. Everyone must listen. To hell with what they are doing. I prefer death rather than to live this humiliating life which the Arabs are living today. [applause] This life of the Arab nation today is the life of donkeys and sheep. Do you call this a nation? Are these rulers? O world, is there no dignity any more? [words indistinct] Let them hear this.

[Passage indistinct] They hit us and they occupied us and [words indistinct]. In the end they said: We are free. Even this generation; it was hit and it is making sacrifices, but another generation will come and celebrate victory.

The struggle continues.

Mauritania

'Observer' Role in Peace Conference Accepted

AB2210063091 Paris AFP in French 2135 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 20 Oct (AFP)—Mauritania has agreed to participate as an observer in the Middle East conference. This was made known in a communique released on 20 October by the minister of foreign affairs in the Mauritanian capital. The meeting is to be held in Madrid from 30 October. The invitations had been sent out by the United states and the Soviet Union.

Opposition Party Holds First Rally in Nouakchott

AB2110215691 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] In Mauritania, an opposition party held a rally yesterday for the first time in Nouakchott. That party is Mario Samataya's Republican Democratic and Social Party [PRDS], which brought together nearly 40,000 people to the capital's sports stadium. Although the participation was massive, it showed, however, that the political field was still not the prerogative of the opposition, which has just scored a new mark. From Nouakchott, Salem Isboul Salem sent us this report:

[Begin recording] With this number of people, the leaders of the PRDS apparently demonstrated to the Mauritanian opposition their mass mobilization capacity. The capital's sports stadium, where the first meeting of the PRDS was organized, turned out to be too small to contain the party's many activists. The capital's stadium was filled to the brim right from the early hours of the rally which lasted five hours. The party's leaders were even forced to hastily clear public standing places around the stadium to enable party supporters to listen to the party secretary general's speech. This initiative was a success thanks to a rapid mobilization of resources.

On the occasion of this first meeting of the PRDS, businessmen generously placed means of transportation at the disposal of the organizers to transport their supporters who do not live near the city center to and from the rally. These remote areas are where many people, especially the poor ones, live. And the poorest and the unfortunate are many in Mauritania. They have just joined the PRDS, and in turn the PRDS is expected to take care of them if they ever come to power after the elections. As for the Mauritanian businessmen, they are already convinced that by joining Chairman Mario Samataya's party, they did not throw their money away.

In the face of the people's expectations, the PRDS Secretary General (Cheikh Ahmed Ould Baba) promised a better Mauritania than before. In his speech translated in into local languages—Hassania, Wolof, Fulah and Soninke—Mr. (Cheikh Ahmed Ould Baba) called on Mauritanians to be republicans by participating with the PRDS in the reconstruction of a united, democratic, and prosperous Mauritania. All the sons of this country have a place with the PRDS, concluded its secretary general. [end recording]

Sudan

President Denies Sentences Passed on Coup Suspects

PM2210161191 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Bashir Says: No Death Sentences Have Been Issued, and the Published List Is Incorrect"]

[Text] Sanaa, AL-HAYAH—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir has said that no sentences have yet been passed against the civilians and military elements accused of conspiring against the regime on 20 August. He accused the Sudanese opposition of adding the names of officers who were not arrested and had nothing to do with these accusations. He emphasized that the authorities are allowing the detainees' families to visit and write to them.

In a long letter which al-Bashir assigned Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah to write and send to around 35 political, party, and unionist figures in Yemen who had written to him about the possibility of the defendants' execution and the need to establish freedoms and democracy in Sudan, the Sudanese president says that he is willing to receive a delegation representing these figures to visit the defendants, examine the course of the trials, and meet the "civilian judges" before whom the defendants made their "confessions without any compulsion or inducement."

The Sudanese president renewed his accusation against a state which he did nos name of involvement in what he termed "the attempts to abort the Arab, Islamic cultural plan in order to replace it with another plan." He said that those defending what he called "the plan opposed to our cultural plan" had said that death sentences had been passed and then endorsed by President al-Bashir "when, as of the date of this letter, no sentences have been passed."

He added that the opposition had added to the defendants' list names which it did not include in the first place. From among these, he mentioned (retired) Major General Al-Shaykh Mustafa, (retired) Brigadier 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Khadr Hifzallah, (retired) Brig. al-Rashid 'Abdallah, (retired) Brig. 'Abdallah Sulayman Sirr-al-Khatm, and (retired) Lieutenant Saysal Kablu.

He said that among the detainees who have been visited by their relatives are (retired) Brig. Mustafa al-Tanni, al-Sayyid Mu'tasim Qurashi, and al-Sayyid 'Umar Muhammad 'Umar. He pointed out that some defendants had chosen "to communicate with their families by letter." These include, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah Naqdallah, al-Sayyid Qanat, 'Abd-al-Latif al-Jumay'abi, and (retired) Brig Muhammad Ahmad al-Rih.

Al-Bashir Opens 'National Strategy Conference'

EA2110162591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman and prime minister, Lieutenant General Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, addressed today at the Friendship Hall the opening session of the comprehensive national strategy conference.

The president [as heard] said in his speech that the conference is convening to settle grave national problems for the next 10 years.

He said: This is not the first conference nor the first time on the national level, but it is, he said, a crowning of two years of consultations.

He said the revolution shall continue with the implementation of its programs irrespective of conspiracies and challenges until it achieves its goals [words indistinct].

Army-Police Forces Kill Rebel Leader, Arrest 60

AB2110193591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The joint Army and Police Forces scored a major victory over armed bandits in Darfur state when they killed a leader and arrested 60 others in an operation at (Hanjah) area west of Fashir. Meanwhile, receiving the victorious force, the state wali [governor] called on them to get ready for a new operation against the gangsters.

[The station continues at 1600 GMT by stating in English: "Darfur Wali Colonel Tayyib Ibrahim

Muhammad Khayr announced that major military operations have started at the (?Marara) area for combing and eradicating armed rebel gangs. The combing operations will start [as heard] on the 15th of next November. The wali said the regular forces will be entitled to enter any place or house in search of armed robbers and illegally-owned firearms. Col. Khayr called on all the people in Darfur state to contribute by supporting the anti-armed robber combing operations scheduled for next November."]

SPLA's Garang Vows To Spread War to North

EA2210203091 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Speech by John Garang, leader of Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, and Army, SPLA, at the officers' graduation ceremony at the SPLA Institute of Revolutionary War Studies; recorded, date not given—from a Radio SPLA "test broadcast"; passages in boldface published in Arabic]

[Text] **Congratulations to you** [passage indistinct] and I wish you all the best. [applause and revolutionary song]

Having given you ranks and promoted you, I also give you the mission. [Words indistinct] whatever mission that is assigned to you, but for most of you will be going to the field and you will be involved in combat, and as it has been said before, we will all be with you, not at home, **all of us will go**. Our military mission must be very [word indistinct], very clear, precise in terms. **Our mission [words indistinct] in** war zone one. [applause and revolutionary song]

[Words indistinct] in war zone one this (?year) of our war and we consolidate our positions in war zone two. War zone two is what used to be called northern Sudan. We will consolidate our positions in Blue Nile. We will consolidate our positions in Southern Kurdufan and we will establish our presence in Darfur. [applause] [sentence indistinct]. [applause] Anywhere **you are sent for these objectives** whether it is in Blue Nile, or in Southern Kurdufan, or in Darfur, this is a [words indistinct] which is connected with all other (?people), because all of them are connected.

(?Orders) in Western Equatoria: This is as well (?support to) [words indistinct] in Southern Kurdufan. Because **in** Southern Kurdufan [words indistinct] support you **in** Southern Blue Nile.

So all these missions are inter-connected—and this is (?the situation) because we are determined this year to completely finish war in war zone one **and we go to** war zone two to fully consolidate our positions so that we stay forever in Southern Kurdufan, southern Blue Nile, and Darfur. [applause]

And we go ahead; we go ahead to Khartoum. We are going [to] penetrate every guerrilla—**urban guerrillas** because our people are [words indistinct]. We will infiltrate and we will establish guerrilla cells [words indistinct] information cells **and** education cells [words indistinct]. This time we are going to have compact cells inside Khartoum, inside [Wad] Madani [words indistinct] and we are going to take the war all the way to Wadi Halfah. [applause]

Our people are with us all over the Sudan. If we take Darfur and we take Southern Kurdufan and we take Southern Blue Nile **and the south** is already taken then there will be no **southern problem**. There will be no **problem in** Nubah, there will be no **problem in** Bor. No. No Darfur **problem**, no Southern Kurdufan **problem** [words indistinct]. Our separatists, also we have them. [applause] [Words indistinct] and then we go to talk national politics as determined by [words indistinct] of the new Sudan. Nobody who will say that [words indistinct]. [applause] [Words indistinct] the south will have been behind us. [Words indistinct] that we are not separatists. We are going to prosecute the war to the north, establish our presence there and also win victory there, and thereby (?bring) unity of the Sudan on the correct basis. **That will be the correct basis** for equality, [words or words indistinct] objective and opportunities for all, irrespective of our race, irrespective of our religion, irrespective of our tribes, irrespective of our regions. This is your revolutionary mission. I wish you the best and we will meet with some of you in the field because I will be everywhere this year. [applause] We will be in western Equatoria, we will be in Bahr al-Ghazal, [words indistinct]. [applause] And we will be in Southern Kurdufan, and we will be in southern Blue Nile, so wherever you are taken, I will find you there. **So** you go ahead and I congratulate you for graduating. I wish you the best. The SPLM- SPLA: Let us go together.

I will end by expressing again the necessity for what all my comrades have said, Comrade William [Nyuan Bany, vice chairman], Comrade Salva [Kiir, chief of staff], Comrade Martin [Manyiel, member of High Command], Comrade Lual Deng [member of High Command] have said: The necessity for unity, because we must not go separately fighting, we must as [word indistinct]—**One** so that we build a strong [word indistinct] because without unity we cannot achieve anything [words indistinct] because **we saw there mouths that have no teeth**. We have fought now for seven years. We have fought for seven years and the enemy is weak [words indistinct]. **We ourselves may be the only enemy ahead of us**. The only enemy I see [words indistinct] these people. [applause] If we are not united then we can—despite our strength and despite the enemy's weakness—then we cannot go ahead. So we must be united as one person. [revolutionary song]

So unity is important. Unity of purpose—that is the purpose with which to build a new Sudan—and unity of action. The action now since we finished the war in war zone one [words indistinct] these are very important. [applause] **I leave you with this point of unity**. [Words indistinct] and [words indistinct] **that Dr. John said, or**

the High Command said, or that people will do this. [Passage indistinct] We will continue in the direction [words indistinct] our objectives [words indistinct] keep united and we will achieve it. [applause] Thank you very much.

1,000 Refugees Flee SPLA Factional Fighting

AB2210165091 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 22 (AFP)—One thousand civilians have taken refuge in Nasir in Sudan's Upper Nile province near the Ethiopian border to escape fighting among rival rebel factions, the army newspaper AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH reported here Tuesday [22 October].

Military governor General Faisal Mohamed Sinadah said the fighting among dissident groups of the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] had taken on a tribal aspect, forcing many people to seek sanctuary in government-held sectors, the report said.

Parts of the Nasir region are held by an SPLA faction under Lam Akol, an academic from the Shilluk tribe which is dominant in Upper Nile. His group is one of three which have recently broken with SPLA leader John Garang, who has been fighting the central government for eight years.

Nasir is already sheltering 90,000 Sudanese refugees who returned from Ethiopia when the regime of Mengistu Haile-Mariam was toppled there in May.

A United Nations airlift of food from Khartoum to Nasir started a week ago and has delivered 122 tons to date, deputy relief commissioner Mohamed Ahmed el Agbach said on Monday.

Ummah Party Leader—No Chance for Reconciliation

PM1810135591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Oct 91 p 5

[Interview with Mubarak al-Mahdi, Sudanese Ummah Party representative in the opposition Democratic National Grouping and former interior minister, by Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad and 'Uthman Mirghani in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You of the Ummah Party were accused in Khartoum of supporting the attempted coup which the authorities said they foiled in August. Did you actually have a role in that attempt?

[Al-Mahdi] First, with regard to the Ummah Party, its position is principled: It is a political party seeking no putschist action. And as a political party it operates within the framework of the opposition Democratic National Grouping [DNG] and does not seek to carry out, nor does it lean toward, any separate action. Thus it is committed to the DNG's charter and the opposition's struggle steps accepted by all.

Second, with regard to the attempted coup, the truth of the matter is that no coup took place, nor did any move take place. And all that the government said is that it arrested people merely on suspicion. [passage omitted]

Actually all the government's accusations are part of a scheme designed to liquidate the Armed Forces and political adversaries under various pretexts. And I believe that it is clear now that the Islamic Front is proceeding toward establishing a one-party state. This is indeed the approach of military coups, since military regimes establish a state party. And the Islamic Front has decided to control state organs through the party. They are taking up positions in the capital by controlling the security organs, the Army, the diplomatic corps, the civil service, and the economy. And that scheme includes, of course, liquidating the Army. Large-scale liquidations have taken place under various pretexts and reached some 50 to 60 percent of the total of serving officers.

If we say that there are some 4,500 combat officers and some 2,000 staff officers in the Sudanese Army, we can say that the number of those who have been dismissed or retired total fromb around 2,500 to 3,000 officers. And after some light training, Islamic Front elements from among graduates have been appointed directly as officers in the technical corps—like the engineers, signals, military construction, medical, and transportation corps—because they are in the first place military cadres for the Islamic Front.

And groups of students are currently being graduated in a hurry from the Military College. In fact, two groups of Islamic Front cadres recently graduated as lieutenants. So the announcement of an attempted coup, the arrest of officers, and the liquidations are in line with the scheme designed to liquidate the Armed Forces, replace them with Islamic Front cadres, and terrorize and liquidate political adversaries on the pretext of an armed conspiracy. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The talk about divisions in the Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Garang movement... raises the question of whether the Sudanese opposition movement has reached the stage of weakness and division.

[Al-Mahdi] I do not believe that the opposition movement is weak or divided. If that was the case, the situation would be different now inside and outside Sudan, and the regime would have been able to accuse it of alleged coup attempts. In the first four months after the launch of opposition action, the opposition movement managed to agree on a general framework and a charter to confront that regime. And these political forces were able to isolate the regime internally and externally and continue the resistance despite the harsh conditions they are facing inside the country, namely torture, intimidation, mass expulsion from service, and starvation. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Who is leading the opposition today?

[Al-Mahdi] The opposition is led by the DNG in its various party groups. Because it is an alliance among political forces that have not dissolved themselves but, rather, accepted a minimum of agreement and a joint program. So each of these forces is working according its capacity , ability, and influence inside and outside Sudan. And they coordinate among themselves through DNG organizations in order to influence the political situation as much as possible. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There are three points or questions which we would like to have clarified: First, with regard to the charter, there is an accusation that the two major parties did not help in the required way to reach that agreement, which took four to six months to reach. Second, do the detailed programs which you spoke about include resolving the disputed political issues? Third, you spoke about a unified leadership which talks to the world as a whole. Has the formation of a transitional government or a government-in-exile been discussed?

[Al-Mahdi] The first part of the question is untrue, especially the accusation that the two parties obstructed progress toward agreement on the programs designed to develop action in the DNG. One of the two parties, namely the Ummah Party, was the advocate of the charter idea. Second, the two parties participate in the Addis Ababa conference, and the Ummah Party in particular was among the active members in the DNG and among those who supervised the preparation for the conference and insisted on achieving the tasks assigned to it.

Furthermore, the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party participated in all the technical committees entrusted with translating the main principles agreed in the Addis Ababa conference. [passage omitted]

I believe that the most important thing which has been agreed is that, once the regime has been toppled, the [Sudanese People's [Liberation] Movement [SPLM] becomes part of the transitional government. And the war in the South would be halted immediately and military technical arrangements would be drawn up to deal with the existence of two armies on the territory until the matter is settled in the constitutional conference. [passage omitted]

And now in view of current developments in is not ruled out that it might be agreed at the DNG's next conference to form a provisional government, which would operate from territories inside Sudan, especially as the SPLM itself, with the vast area under its control, has started to think about setting up civil, development, and service administrations and so on—which requires a civilian administration and outside aid.

The role of that government would be to represent the Sudanese people abroad, explain what is going in Sudan, work to run the affairs of the areas in which it is present and which are under the control of a party from the opposition, that is in a united and collective way that reflects the image of a united opposition, and develop the struggle process itself, on the basis that there is an opposition which actually exists, is in control of a large area of Sudan, and expresses the aspirations of the Sudanese people's masses.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is there any solution to reconcile the regime and the opposition, as happened in 1977, especially since there has recently been much talk about the possibility of a reconciliation or dialogue between the government and party leaderships?

[Al-Mahdi] Actually there is no common ground, and conditions in 1977 differed from conditions in 1991. This is because the Numayri regime's nature and practices in 1977 differed from this regime's nature and practices, even in the former regime's recourse to reconciliation after a strong blow was dealt it in July 1976, which showed Numayri that bearing arms was not the prerogative of one section alone.

The nature of this present regime is that it is an ideological regime and has a scheme that goes beyond Sudan. This is why it is not confining its thinking to Sudan. While it engages in its battles in Sudan, we see it engaging in battles in Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine. So it is moving everywhere, because it proceeds from a certain belief and regards Sudan as a base for implementing its ideas. So the conditions are different and the regime's nature is different. Thus, there can be no reconciliation with it.

All that can be agreed is for the regime to dissolve itself and make room for the formation of a transitional national government that would hold a national conference to endorse a constitution and a program for government and open the door to a multiparty democracy in Sudan, just as what happened in Ethiopia, Benin, Togo, and a number of other states. That is, the price of the handover process would be the safety of those who hand over power; they would be freed from punishment in return for handing over the country without further bloodshed. [passage omitted]

Escaped Military Officer Alleges 'Inhuman' Treatment

PM1610132591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Oct 91 p 1

[Mu'awiyah Yasin report: "Fleeing Sudanese Officer Threatens al-Bashir With 'Reprisal'"]

[Excerpts] London—AL-HAYAH has learned that three Sudanese Army officers who were among the escapees from Khartoum prisons arrived in Britain at the beginning of this week after a journey whose details have not been revealed out of concern for the safety of those who aided their flight from the country. But one of them, namely Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Muttalib, did warn his colleagues in the ruling National Salvation Revolution Command Council that "the reprisal will be soon, very soon." [passage omitted]

Col. 'Abd-al-Muttalib told AL-HAYAH that he and his imprisoned colleagues received "inhuman and undignified treatment unbecoming to them as military men." He pointed out that he and 33 other officers, the most senior of whom is Major General Muhammad 'Ali Hamid, who was accused of leading the attempted coup, were "tried formally in May 1990; our trial lasted no more than an hour, and my own trial lasted two minutes, despite the fact that I had denied the charge against me." [passage omitted]

Minister on 'Regrettable' Recall of Tunisia Envoy

PM1810090591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
17 Oct 91 pp 1, 4

['Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Tunisia Confirms Recall of Its Ambassador Amid Sudanese 'Regrets' and Calls for 'Wisdom'"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Tunis, AL-HAYAH—Tunisia yesterday officially confirmed the recall of its ambassador from Khartoum. And it continued to accuse the Sudanese Government of providing facilities for the Ennahdha movement, now described as the "terrorist gang" in official statements.

Acting Foreign Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, who is also information minister, has described the Tunisian Government's position as "regrettable" in the first Sudanese reponse to the Tunisian accusations. He also said that "it needs to be handled in a wise and brotherly fashion," expressing his confidence that the two countries will surmount this "accidental position."

When AL-HAYAH asked him about Tunisia's recall of its ambassador, he replied that the Tunisian ambassador informed the Sudanese Foreign Ministry that he was going to leave Khartoum at his government's request. He added: "As we understand it, his government has summoned him for consultations."

The Sudanese foreign minister refused to provide any further information, saying that the entire matter was being studied.

Meanwhile, he pointed out that Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir spoke about Egyptian-Sudanese relations at a meeting with media officials yesterday and said that "political efforts are being made in every possible way to improve and develop relations with sister Egypt" and that "the accidental coolness will not affect the depth of the sincere brotherly relations between the two countries."

The information minister pointed out that al-Bashir emphasized to media officials that "any intention to lend any party color to this government is unacceptable," affirming that his government has dissolved all parties, that all parties are equal with regard to the decision to dissolve them, and that it should be understood that the figures which cooperate with the the Salvation Revolution proceed on a nonpartisan basis and work within a general national framework in accordance with the aims of the revolution." [quotation marks as published]

It seems that Al-Bashir's statement came as a response to what was said in the AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper, namely that his government enjoys the dissolved National Islamic Front's support. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Confirms Efforts To Improve Egypt Ties

EA1810104091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has confirmed reports by some press sources that great efforts are being made to underline and improve relations with sisterly Egypt and restore them to their normal level.

During his briefing with the leaders of the press and the information media, his excellency directed the media to keep in mind the special nature of relations between Sudan and Egypt, and to keep away from anything that may harm these relations. They should work towards strengthening them through information fora. During this briefing, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir stressed Sudan's unshakeable stand on peace in the Middle East which proceeded from the objectives relating to the rights of the Palestinian people and confirmation of their will and independence besides Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Jerusalem should be considered the capital of Palestine.

Moreover, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir stressed that the National Salvation Revolution was not affiliated to any party or any group. All parties had been dissolved. He pointed out that the revolution was working towards expanding the participation of all Sudanese groups in national activity. Any Sudanese who is 18 years old can join the new political organization.

Iraq, Sudan Sign Oil Industry Development Accord

EA1810115191 Khartoum SUNA in English
1624 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Oct (SUNA)—The Sudan and Iraq have reached an agreement on joint cooperation in the field of oil industry. The agreement was signed by Mining State Minister Col Hasan Muhammad Dahawit for the Sudanese side during a recent visit to Iraq while Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq signed for his country.

According to the agreement, Iraq is to undertake the training of Sudanese cadres in the fields of exploration, production and refining of oil.

Iraq would also extend technical assistance to Sudan through conducting studies on oil development in Sudan.

Col Dahawit paid a visit to Iraq, leading a technical delegation of the energy and mining ministry in the period October 9th-15th.

Tunisia

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Tunis 19 Oct

LD1910144491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Tunis this morning carrying a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Prince Saud al-Faysal expressed pleasure at visiting Tunis, pointing out that the message sent by King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz to the head of state is in connection with the excellent traditional ties between the two fraternal countries, and is within the framework of exchanging views between the leaderships of the two countries on the Arab issues, in general, and particularly at this critical and decisive phase witnessed by the Arab nation. Prince Saud al-Faysal added that consultation between King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali continues with regard to all the Arab issues, particularly in the wake of the official invitation that was addressed to Tunisia to participate in the peace conference. [passage omitted]

Amnesty Report Says Fundamentalists Tortured

LD2010234291 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Amnesty International denounced the maltreatment and even the torture inflicted on some fundamentalist prisoners. Amnesty International even gave the figure of five dead. President Ben Ali then ordered an inquiry, and the commission has just given its report. Rida Boughezi, there have been abuses according to the contents of this report:

[Boughezi] The commission of inquiry set up on 25 June at President Ben Ali's initiative has finally given its conclusions: Yes, abuses have effectively been committed. They are due to individual acts which are not in conformity with the state policy and the instructions of the president of the Republic. The commission, which comprises lawyers and doctors who are known for their integrity, did not specify the nature of the abuses committed. However, sources close to this commission mentioned maltreatment inflicted on some prisoners, custody, and preventive detention longer than the legal duration, as well as the impossibility for the families of some detainees to have news about their relatives. In its report, the commission of inquiry said it visited three prisons and talked with detainees. It also declared contacts with the human rights leagues, the interior minister, and some lawyers and magistrates. It indicated that, following these contacts, some complaints are justified while others are totally unfounded, as proven by the testimonies of the detainees themselves and those of the doctors. Furthermore, the commission asserted that the Tunisian authorities informed it about the judicial inquiries open in the case of the abuses committed, as well as disciplinary measures taken against the authors of these abuses. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Message From Rafsanjani

LD2210182991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Oct (SPA)—Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, may God protect him, received a letter from His Excellency President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mohammad 'Ali Mottaki delivered the letter to the custodian of the two Holy Mosques when he and the accompanying delegation were received by the beloved monarch in his court at al-Salam Palace this evening. Ibrahim al-Anqari, the personal advisor to the custodian of the two Holy Mosques, and Mohammad Ra'is, the Iranian charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy to the Kingdom, attended the meeting.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri, [Saudi] under secretary for foreign and political affairs, had earlier today conferred with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mohammad 'Ali Mottakiat at the hall of conferences in Jeddah. During the meeting, they discussed the developing and strengthening of bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ambassador Ahmad Mu'minah, the head of the Asian Department at the Foreign Ministry attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Meets Kuwaiti Minister, Speaks

LD2310092191 Riyadh SPA in English 1227 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, Oct. 22, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz received here yesterday the visiting Kuwaiti Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir and the Kuwaiti general consul here Ibrahim 'Abdallah al-Mansur.

At the reception, King Fahd delivered the following speech:

"I will not be able to express my feelings about the words I have heard. But it is not strange for the people who have said these words: his excellency the minister and my brother 'Ali al-Jassar (the Kuwaiti planning minister)."

"I can not describe my feelings for brothers Amir Jabir and the crown prince and all members of the Kuwaiti royal family as well as the dear people of Kuwait.

"If the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—with both its leaders and people—has done what it should have done, this would not be a source of pride, because this country has performed the brotherly duty dictated upon us by our fathers, grandfathers, family and origins."

"We were hit by a major catastrophe, and I wish it had befallen at the hands of enemies we knew before hand. But it came to us from a friend who had been pretending that he was a close friend of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a close personal friend of me. Moreover, he had been openly saying that he respected and appreciated Amir Jabir, al-Sabah family in general and the people of Kuwait," the Saudi monarch said.

The Saudi monarch said he used to take these pretentions seriously because he had no reason to interpret them in any other way, since Iraq is a neighbour of both the Kingdom and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had supported Iraq during the latter's crisis.

He confirmed that he was surprised to hear about the occupation of Kuwait on August 2, 1990 and pointed out that he was confused for a few minutes, denying to himself that such a thing could ever happen.

"I tried to call the Iraqi president, but I could not get through to him. His secretary, I think, answered the call and said: 'I will call you back in half an hour'," recalled King Fahd. "After half an hour he called and said President Saddam Husayn was away from Baghdad and there are no telephones where he is staying. I realized he does not want to talk to me", he added.

The custodian of the two holy mosques stressed that even at the moment when Iraqi troops marched into Kuwait, he did not believe the news and wanted to make absolutely sure. He then called the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait and was told that the Iraqi forces were invading the emirate.

King Fahd said that at that moment, he had realized the painful reality, which was followed by intensive contacts and meetings with Arab leaders. "I will not forget, in that connection, what my brother President Husni Mubarak did," the Saudi monarch indicated.

He added that he and the Egyptian president had made intensive contacts and knocked on doors that were (?always) locked, which proves that the matter was planned in such a way that only Allah and force can resolve.

He recalled that in the morning the Saudi planes photographed the border area and found countless columns of tanks, artillery and military equipment and he realized that the Kingdom would come next. "I had to put Saudi Arabia on Kuwait's side, regardless of the consequences", he pointed out. "I was not thinking of protecting Saudi Arabia because the Kingdom is a part of Kuwait and Kuwait is a part of the Kingdom", he added.

He then pointed out that Iraq has water sources for agriculture, oil and other minerals. "So, what did Iraq want," the Saudi monarch wondered adding that he had realized then that the occupation of Kuwait had other motives.

"Regardless of whether or not Saddam Husayn had threatened the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, our position would have been the same", he stressed. He also recalled having been asked to sign a non-aggression treaty between Iraq and the Kingdom, during his visit to Iraq. Saddam told him that he wants both sides to be reassured and confirmed that he would exchange similar documents with all countries that would accept them.

"It seems to me that he had calculated what he was going to do in Kuwait and thought that if there were agreements between us, which he suggested to conclude, the Kingdom would stand still and say we have a non-aggression treaty with Saddam," said the custodian of the two holy mosques.

"We all know that the Iraqi Army was very well-trained and fought for eight years against Iran. In such a situation, the fighting army is always ready for combat. Saudi Arabia has a strong army as well and has a navy and an airforce that has proven its efficiency in battle," he added, pointing out that before starting any fights, he wanted to know who would stand by Kuwait and the Kingdom and who would hesitate. "Then the decision would be wise," he affirmed.

The Saudi monarch says that he had knocked on the doors of Arab brothers, Islamic countries and powerful friends that can supply the Kingdom with weapons and men.

He indicated that things had developed beyond Saddam's expectations. He recalled that Arab summit conferences were held, but Saddam did not respond. "He only tried to waste time, so we realized beyond any doubt that it was a matter of power," King Fahd explained.

"I think Saddam realized then that he had entered a battle that he can not get rid of, yet I opened the doors for him and asked him to withdraw from Kuwait," he said, adding that Saddam had also rejected the attempts of sincere and Muslim leaders.

King Fahd said that during his visit to Iraq, Saddam used to say that he was ready to solve problems between Iraq and Kuwait, and of course the Saudi monarch was fully in support of this concept. He stressed to Saddam that he would call the brothers in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to contain the problem of additional oil production.

King Fahd also recalled having offered to intervene and speak to both Saddam and Amir Jabir to resolve the differences in a legitimate way.

"Saddam used to call Kuwait the 19th Iraqi province," said the Saudi monarch wondering why Saddam did not say openly that he was greedy and that he was trying to dominate neighbouring Arab countries.

He said that Iraq had spent billions on weapons of destruction which proves that its target was not confined only to Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. "That was his big mistake," affirmed King Fahd. He stressed, however, that the kingdom does not gloat.

The Saudi monarch recalled that he had first met Saddam in Algiers at an OPEC conference in 1975, and that he wanted to discuss the problem of Saudi-Iraqi borders with him. "This problem was solved completely in two months. I had a deep and strong relationship with him," King Fahd added. "But it seems to me that he was planning such things even before he came to power," he said.

The Saudi monarch expressed his hope that the people of Iraq would find the leadership that would restore sound thinking and logic to the ruling of their country.

He also pointed to the success of the Saudi and Kuwaiti soldiers, who had never fought any battles before. "I call it self-defence, by Allah we did not like it and we did not want it," said King Fahd of the Gulf war.

He also repeated his thanks to all Arab, Islamic and friendly leaders who helped and supported Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and reaffirmed that the Saudi and Kuwaiti peoples are like one and that they have mutual interests.

The custodian of the two holy mosques wished the Kuwaiti brothers a pleasant stay in the Kingdom and thanked Allah for the near completion of extinguishing all Kuwaiti oil fires.

Wishing that Allah would keep us away from trouble and end the problems facing the Arabs, King Fahd expressed his hope that the upcoming peace conference would be successful and would return rights to their owners. [passage omitted]

Meets Nawaz Sharif in Jeddah

BK1510073291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held talks with King Fahd in Jeddah. During the unscheduled meeting, King Fahd said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are deeply attached to each other due to their mutual relations and ties, and the hearts of their people beat in unison. Later, briefing newsmen accompanying the prime minister, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo said it was a unique gesture on the part of the Saudi king to have expressed his desire to meet Mohammad Nawaz Sharif before he left for the holy Medina, and this reflects the king's affection and sincerity toward Pakistan and its people.

The Saudi ruler interrupted his Cabinet meeting to receive the Pakistani prime minister. He invited Nawaz Sharif to visit Saudi Arabia again while on his way back home after attending the Harare Commonwealth summit. The prime minister accepted the invitation to visit Saudi Arabia and meet the king on his way back to Pakistan from the Zimbabwean capital. The prime minister conveyed good wishes to the king and the people of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the president and the people of

Pakistan and reminded the Saudi ruler that a visit by him to Pakistan is long overdue. He said that during his visit to Saudi Arabia on his way back home he would finalize the tentative date of King Fahd's visit to Pakistan. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Establishments Ashraf Khan Junejo, and Army Chief Asif Nawaz were also present during the meeting with the Saudi leader. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Al-Iriyani on Relations With Gulf States, U.S.

PM0910150591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Oct 91 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani by Raghida Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dirgham] Do you want to normalize relations with the Gulf states after the current relations crisis? And what are you doing to achieve that?

[Al-Iryani] We never sought to disrupt relations at any time during the crushing crisis which the region experienced. Thus the natural answer is that we are willing to normalize. Yemen has never sought to harm anyone or disrupt relations with anyone.

[Dirgham] Is anyone conducting a mediation? We heard that Oman is exerting efforts.

[Al-Iryani] Actually this question has been repeatedly addressed to us and we tell anyone who asks that we have no conditions for restoring relations to their previous status. Thus we welcome anyone who moves in that direction.

[Dirgham] Is Oman actually conducting good offices in that regard?

[Al-Iryani] I believe that Oman is interested in that subject. I do not know, I have no information about that. But by virtue of our relations with Oman and our meetings and continuing contacts, Sultan Qabus is very interested in seeing that Yemen's relations with all its neighbors are normal and good. And if he is making efforts in that regard, then we must thank him.

[Dirgham] Oman is a Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member state, and the GCC states blame you for your stance before, during, and after the Gulf war. For example, it is said that you did not condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and you are requested to express such condemnation now. Are you willing to condemn the invasion?

[Al-Iryani] If there is any person in an official position in any Gulf state saying that Yemen was not against the invasion and that it did not condemn it, then we believe that he needs to go back to Yemen's records, the Yemeni press, and the statements made by the most senior officials in the Republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Gulf officials say that matters cannot return to their previous status before these positions are clarified. They say that Yemen was negative toward the Kuwait issue and the liberation of Kuwait through its positions at the Security Council.

[Al-Iryani] If they want to say that, they are free to do so. It depends on who reads and who hears; everyone is free to interpret what is said or written.

[Dirgham] Your Excellency, the question is put forward on the basis of the desire to normalize, or the possibility of normalizing, relations. So if that objective requires a clear condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, are you willing to clarify that condemnation?

[Al-Iryani] First, Kuwait is a free state today. And if they are trying to find out whether Yemen condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, they can look in the Yemeni press and the official statements issued over the six months from the date the crisis began. If that is true—and I have no knowledge of it—then it is an excuse and an intransigent position.

[Dirgham] Do you mean that there is no real desire to normalize relations with Yemen in the region?

[Al-Iryani] If the excuse is that Yemen supported Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, I believe this shows that there is no desire and that it is merely a search for excuses. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Regarding the United States, obviously relations made a good start with the establishment of diplomatic relations. How were they affected during the Gulf crisis? And how are they now?

[Al-Iryani] First, there is no doubt that during the Gulf crisis Yemeni-U.S. relations were exposed to tension, anger, and disappointment—which was natural. But despite that, they were not severed. The United States took measures, freezing symbolic aid; in fact about $20 million. The Americans regarded that as an indication of their dissatisfaction. Now I can confirm that since the crisis ended there has been an understanding. There is a Yemeni-U.S. understanding over the need for relations to be developed and to be based on the foundations of mutual benefits.

[Dirgham] You met in New York with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs. Did you agree on any details concerning Yemeni-U.S. relations?

[Al-Iryani] We agreed on the principles, and I found that there was no negotiation over them. I found that there was an automatic, mutual understanding without negotiations. Thus there is actually no difference. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Addresses Award Ceremony

JN2110213391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn during an awards ceremony; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Congratulations to you, comrades; congratulations on this honor, which you deserved; and congratulations to your people that they have such men, with the martyrs, the noblest of us all, in the lead. I say congratulations to your people and nation, that they have men able to carry the message under the most difficult circumstances. The term "most difficult circumstances" in the context of the Mother of Battles is neither a rhetorical expression nor a description of a situation that is comparatively more difficult than other. We say "the most difficult circumstances" because I do not believe that the nation faced, or will face—by the standards we are talking about—difficulties like those the great Iraqi people faced in the Mother of Battles.

For all this hardship, we found from among men, and from among people generally, ones that were able to continue. By generally, I mean that from among the Iraqi ranks, some people—to varying degrees—continued to hold the banner without feeling tired by the most difficult circumstances. Those people were led by this virtuous group of men, who deserved this honor for their heroic position. To honor them is to honor all Iraqis and Arab mujahidin wherever they exist along the path toward the great principles and central slogans of the Mother of Battles.

As we, in the name of the people and the nation, honor this virtuous group of faithful men, we find other men enjoying this honor. They feel honored for the same reasons, and over the same noble and great values for which you believed in and fought.

We are honoring this virtuous group today as members of the Regional Command, foremost of them is the comrade deputy secretary, or as commanders of the Armed Forces, including the defense minister and the chief of staff. When the strugglers and mujahidin are honored by the nation and the people for their merits, they first should thank God, because He gave them the historical chance to express themselves and adhere to values and principles, in the manner that this actually happened. Second, they should thank the people and the nation because they made available the necessary requirements and circumstances for those mujahidin to embody the great principles in which they believe as a practical, historical, and principled achievement of this great Iraqi people.

The mujahidin should remember that they are indebted to the martyrs—their comrades and the sons of their people—for their blood. Those martyrs illuminated for them the road of great hopes and opportunity for victory when they were leading the mujahidin—each in his field—or when they adopted firm stands—each in his position—in defense of the principles that were announced in (?the Mother of Battles).

Everyone should know that the message will continue without stopping until the belief in these principles reach its goals.

The difficulties in terms of their degress, levels, and different kinds are necessary to achieve the great principles. And this is written in Almighty God's books, and in all history books, because they are necessary as they describe the meaning of the principles carried by believers. The greater the principles, the greater the sacrifices, and the difficulties are. The smaller the slogans, their concepts, and the imagination surrounding them—and the imagination here is not divine, but the imagination of the mujahidin and the revolutionaries who believe in the inevitable victory of their principles—the broader this imagination to achieve the principles, the greater the sacrifices and the risks are. [sentence as heard]

But, the greater the messages, the courses, and mentality—which believe in the dear, wise, and great Allah and in the nation—the greater the risks.

When such principles triumph—and we have great beliefs that in all moments and circumstances they will triumph—they will change the situation of the nation and the circumstances of people. This change will be a qualitative, deep, and comprehensive one. This change will not only affect its era only, but also the future.

Even if this situation dictates—in light of its components and circumstances—extraordinary difficulties, it is also necessary in terms of its meanings that will be derived by this generation and the meanings that will be enjoyed by all the coming generations, not only on the level of the state and the nation, but I say—and we believe in this also—on the level of humanity.

May God protect your people and protect you so that you can march further ahead. May God protect your nation and achieve your objectives and aspirations. Objectives, aspirations, and principles are first achieved in the soul when it undergoes genuine suffering. When faith in such objectives is profound and genuine, they materialize. Then, the effectiveness of faith will spread farther and farther. The Iraqis have proved beyond doubt that, with the help of God, they are proceeding ahead to assert that they truly believe in what they believe, that they are sincere toward the stands they have declared, and that they are proceeding along the right path.

Therefore, God will bestow a respectable and prominent status upon the generation who suffers the greatest hardship, God willing. This generation will enjoy an unprecedented status that will be talked about and set as a model by believers from all over the world, and for a long time to come. Such a gain is not for oneself, but for faith and principles. For such a gain to be scored there must be corresponding sacrifices. This gain is not for persons only, although they could be considered the symbols of this accomplishment, but will be for a whole generation in great Iraq.

We greatly hope that these values will result in material gains. However, the material gains of believers differ from the material gains of nonbelievers. When I say that these great moral, historical, and spiritual gains scored by the Iraqi people will result in material gains, I do not mean gains such as the ones scored by exploiters, for example, who stockpile millions of dinars. I—may God protect us against the evil of the word I, unless when we have to use it when there is no alternative to it—when we speak we speak about everyone, not about a person or a leadership, we speak about all the great Ba'th Party's values which have been laid down the path before us. In our view, Ba'th is the mission of the Arab nation, not only the option of organized persons, although they could be leaders. When material gains are secured within the framework of their sound requirements for mujahidin and strugglers, better chances will definitely open to other sectors of the people. This is because the gains of mujahidin and believers in the movement of revolutionaries and mujahidin differ from the gains of ordinary people in general. God willing, there must be a great relaxation after our people' suffering. Even those with little faith or those who are not in a position to imagine the relaxation awaiting them in accordance with all these values we have talked about will be surprised by this great relaxation. Relaxation will come because God is all-powerful and because the determination of those who believe in God Almighty is great. They firmly believe that the mission they are entrusted with will become loftier, more capable, and more expressive. Is not this the case, comrade leader of diplomacy [referring to Tariq 'Aziz].

Your people, your leadership, your Ba'th Party, and your nation are proud of you. They are proud of all the men who held fast in their positions and whose hearts harbored bright images of the future and were continuously nurtured by the faith in great principles.

May God grant you long life. A nation without men who shoulder the heaviest burdens cannot be a great nation. Yours is the nation of the prophets. It is a great nation.

'Aziz Addresses Ceremony

JN2210090291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1901 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Remarks by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz at ceremony during which President Saddam Husayn awarded medals and swords of courage to Iraqi military and state leaders for their role in the "Mother of Battles"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Mr. President, it is not easy for any person to speak on an occasion such as this after leader President Saddam Husayn. My comrades know from experience that on occasions like this, which has a special flavor, you speak about and cover all aspects of the occasion, making it difficult for your colleagues to speak after you. However, if my comrades and your excellency permit, I would like to say a few words here. You mentioned in your speech that the battle Iraq had waged and which the Arab nation had waged with it, with its heart if not with its swords, was really a battle, which we would not be exaggerating to say, was a first-class battle. It was a first-class battle in all its fields, whether in the military or nonmilitary fields.

As you have said on a previous occasion, the Mother of Battles did not start on the night of 17 January 1991, it started before that date. The battle began when the enemies, who have designs on this nation and who do not want it to progress and develop, discovered that there is in Iraq a special phenomenon, that in Iraq a human being is being formed and that he is producing with his hands and mind tools, resurgence, and means that will enable Iraq and the Arab nation to deservingly enter the modern age. We used to say and writers and analysts used to say that the Arab nation is backward and has not kept up with what this age entails in terms of means, potentials, and stands. They found that there were Iraqi men, people and tangible results that would enable Iraq to enter into this age, and consequently enable the Arab nation—the model being built in Iraq will inevitably have a direct and indirect impact on the Arab state of affairs in general—enable Iraq and the Arab nation to achieve a legitimate balance between the Arab nation and those who threaten its security and future and those who usurp its land and rights. The battle began at that time. It continued and is still going on.

As you so accurately diagnosed, the battle contains many fields. We all should have waged the battle in all these fields, each from his position and in accordance with the tasks that your excellency and the command had assigned to him.

We are now living one of the pages of this battle. Some Iraqis and Arabs mistakenly believe that the battle was decided for the enemies and imagine that history has ended with what they call U.S. victory and the domination of the U.S. age and the Western, or Arab countries which are on the U.S. bandwagon.

Not only out of zealousness, although zealousness is important and our hearts are full of it and you are our pioneer in this, but also on the basis of the objective and farsighted analysis of the current conditions and the future, we must tell these people that history's door has not been shut, and that the battle has not yet been decided; the battle is still going on. In this country, in great Iraq under the leadership of leader Saddam Husayn, and in the Arab nation, there are qualified men, huge masses, and resources—some visible, and some that will emerge on the action field—that would enable Iraq and the Arab nation to continue the march and achieve the victory, which will, God willing, be seen by both the shortsighted and the farsighted.

In this regard, I recall part of the discussion I had with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva. We went there, each of us representing his front and trench. Among the things he said to me, was: Mr. Minister, if you do not do so and so, and he mentioned a number of conditions, we will push you back to the pre-industrial age; and there will be people other than you in Iraq to decide the future of Iraq. I told him: Mr. Secretary, you are undoubtedly a powerful country, and we know that. We in Iraq know that the United States is a powerful country. We also know the military capabilities you have because we see, and read about them every day. You can inflict great material damage in Iraq, and we expect this. But, I would like to tell you something: Iraq has a 6,000-year old history, and you must draw important conclusions from this history. How could Iraq live for 6,000 years, survive, and play a role. Throughout those long years, Iraq fought battles and passed through experiences, many of which were hard and difficult, but Iraq survived. Therefore, you cannot control Iraq and its future. I tell you: He who struggles against you, Americans, in the Arab countries enjoys his people's love, appreciation, and confidence, because, for so many years and in so many phases, you have dealt with this nation with contempt, and because you have very clearly sided with Israel, which usurped our country and rights. Therefore, your assessments, Mr. Secretary, are wrong.

I go back to what I wanted to stress which is based on the fact your excellency has pointed out; namely, that the battle which Iraq, and the Arab nation, fought is not yet over. We who were involved in it, and who were present in its heated arena, in all fields, should continue.

I believe that the faithful and farsighted Arabs are ready to continue in order to prove, not only to the enemies, but also to the shortsighted and those with selfish interests, that the renaissance of the Arab nation and the prerequisites for its entry into the modern age and possession of the elements of balance with those who threaten it and threaten its security, land, resources, and pride, constitute an inescapable fate. The nation cannot say: Well, I have decided to live as a fifth-class nation. Circumstances at a particular phase may force the nation to assume a not so advanced rank because of historical conditions or current circumstances. But, can a people or nation voluntarily say: I have decided to remain a fifth- or fourth-class nation. I believe the people, or nation, that say such things do not deserve to be a people or to be called a nation. If there are some individuals who say such things, they do not deserve to be men, yet alone leaders and ministers, or to assume any position in government or administration.

Iraqi patriotism, Arab nationalism, and the determination to give our country and nation the position it deserves on the basis of its history and contribution to human civilization and on the basis of the legitimate equity among nations—a legitimate equity approved by God and the fair and virtuous people... ['Aziz changes thought] that objective is an inescapable fate and a duty for the individual and the people, and particularly for all those who are in an official position.

Therefore, sir, there are many people—including those of us who today were honored by you, our comrades in the Party, our people in Iraq, and the Arabs who believe in their nation—who feel that the condition in which we live today is only a page in a big book, whose pages are unlimited. This is the book of struggle and jihad to enable the Arab nation to attain its legitimate right. They believe that they should continue and that they will achieve victory, whether they achieve it while they were still alive and in power, or after they have gone, as martyrs or of natural death, like all individuals do. What is important is that they believe in this and remain hopeful. God grants glory to you, Mr. President, and to your comrades, people, and nation. We will all march on this path, God willing.

Saddam Concludes Ceremony

JN2210092991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1918 21 Oct 91

[Remarks by President Saddam Husayn at the conclusion of a medal awarding ceremony—date, place not given; recorded]

[Text] In our regular daily activity, there are lessons that are deeper than they might initially appear. During our meetings before Baghdad was attacked on the night of 16-17 January and even before or after that date, we saw or heard what some people, whom we had no chance to see, said. Some of them spoke out of care, though unconsciously, and others out of a feeling of arrogance, represented by the American Administration in today's world. They said: Since you were technically less advanced than those who dictated conditions on you, why did you not meet their conditions? Had they not caused you some harm when the battle started, as mentioned in some of their conditions. Why then did you not surrender to all their material and moral conditions? We always answered them—those from the leadership who met with them told them that not all life can be formulated in this manner; otherwise, there would have been no need for Almighty God to entrust missions to prophets and messengers. Therefore, some of them were martyred and others faced difficulties about which we heard or read.

All this is meant to say that not everything demanded by the tyrant should be given to him, even if his reaction will be severer in some material aspects than when his demands are met. Yesterday, a police specialist appeared on television and talked about crimes committed by a human beast. That attracted my attention as a major, meaningful sign, although not one that is taken as an example in terms of politics and intellect. This human beast took and threatened a female teacher to yield to his eccentric, evil desires. Although she knew that he would kill her, she refused, and because she refused, he killed her. People who are not interested in sublime values may say that it would have been better for her to comply rather than get killed. No, there is a big difference between the two positions. Her family, her quarter, and even the Iraqi women have the right to erect a statue in appreciation of that girl because she defended the honor of them all with pride. She knew she would die, but still refused to have sexual intercourse with this beast. Her family should be proud of her. Instead of concealing her name, her family should take pride in her and publicize the incident in newspapers. All will say: This is our daughter who refused to obey that killer, abnormal beast and who agreed to die rather than give in to the beast. This falls within the framework of the defense mission in its simple meaning. How would things be then if the issue is related to principles and true rights, as comrade Tariq 'Aziz mentioned? Iraq was not seeking to violate the others' rights; it was demanding the rights of the nation and the Iraqis. The future will be brilliant, God willing.

Saddam Decorates 'Heroic Men'

JN2210115591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has asserted that when principles and higher values are threatened, when the homeland is at risk, and when the nation faces a dilemma and the road that leads it to the principles and values is obstructed, honorable people have only one option: To confront the enemies so that the nation and principles can remain intact.

His excellency said: Men are judged by their history. They are not judged by their physical appearance, but men are judged by their history.

This came in an address made by the president when he decorated a number of military commanders with the Mother of Battles orders and bravery medals in appreciation of their role in confronting the aggression and the aggressors and in tearing the page of treason and treachery.

The president added: With the passage of time, heroism becomes not merely a tradition or a characteristic that may continue, but may also become hereditary if it continues uninterrupted.

He pointed out that this may take place when the sons and grandchildren follow the example of the fathers and grandfathers and adhere to the characteristics they adhered to in their life; characteristics which occupied a prominent place among the other higher values.

His excellency told the military commanders: I think that as far as many of your sons and grandchildren are concerned, they will be heroic men within the ranks of the nation and people.

The president added: As I was decorating some of you with orders and medals, I recalled what I read about two months ago in a book about [Abbaside caliph] Harun al-Rashid. When he faced difficult times in his conquests, he used to summon the men who are known for their wisdom and courage in the battlefield.

He added: Harun al-Rashid used to take account of the man who fought the enemies and the arena in which he fought. He would summon him when he needed him. He used to settle his battles with the courage of those old leaders, as well as the new leaders who join them. Old leaders were supplying the new blood with the accumulated experience.

There are men among you who were summoned back into service after they have retired. As you know about our military system and about many military systems in the world, when a military man retires it does not mean that he no longer belongs to the military establishment. One can figuratively say that he remains in the reserve forces. He added: Some of the men who had been pensioned off have been recalled to service to join the ranks of their comrade strugglers who had pledged to God to pursue the honest course and who also had committed themselves to principles and to responding to the dictates of jihad in all cricumstances.

President Saddam Husayn thanked Almighty God because He has paved the way for better confrontation and with such courage which is currently acknowledged by all. He said: Your courage in the future [as received] will be a model to be emulated in the future from the very first moment that the first missile was fired against Baghdad, and the steadfast people stood fast. This courage will continue to be taken as an example thousands of years from now.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the Iraqi's history is replete with what constitutes a source of pride and in service of principles. His excellency expresed his thanks to the nation which has become an active ground that enriches the principles that were raised during the Mother of Battles with more landmarks and models which all point to the sound stand, guide travellers toward this stand, and highlight the soundest course among the men in confrontation of the dangers that threaten the nation and the people and their sublime values.

Those decorated comprise Staff General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abas, who was defense minister during the Mother of Battles; Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; Lt. Gen. Hamid Sha'ban Khudayyir; Staff Lt. Gen. Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri; Staff Lt. Gen Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid; and Staff Lt. Gen. Tali' Khalil Irhayyim.

Those decorated also comprise Staff General Husayn Rashid Muhammad; Staff Lt. Gen. 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad Jasim; Lt. Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad, Lt. Gen. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Rahman, Lt. Gen. Iyad Khalil (Zaki), Lt. Gen. Salah 'Abbud Mahmud, Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Isma'il Muhammad, Air Force Staff Lt. Gen. Al-Hakam Hasan 'Ali, and Major General 'Abd-al-Wahid Shinan (al-Rabat).

The medal award ceremony was attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman and deputy Armed Forces commander in chief; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the president's office; Defense Minister Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan; and Chief of Staff Staff Lt. Gen. Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi.

Delegation Leaves for Euro-Arab Dialogue

JN2210152391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—A delegation from the Iraqi National Assembly this morning left for Barcelona to attend the four-day meetings of the Euro-Arab parliamentary dialogue, scheduled to start Friday.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Ahmad al-Nu'aymi, head of the delegation and chairman of the assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee, said the participants will discuss the threats of the arms race in the Mediterranean region and the need to remove all weapons of mass destruction from the region and apply international legitimacy.

He pointed out that during the parliamentary dialogue, the National Assembly delegation will concentrate on the need to remove all military bases in the region, destroy the Zionist entity's weapons of mass destruction, and study regional problems as a whole, not separately.

He added that the Iraqi delegation will urge the conferees to lift the unfair economic blockade imposed against Iraq now that Iraq has implemented the UN Security Council resolutions and exposed the U.S. schemes to use international resolutions as a pretext to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Shamir Addresses European Parliament

Notes Four Prerequisites for Peace

TA2210175991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir appeared this evening before the expanded secretariat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The meeting took place behind closed doors, and Mr. Shamir is currently holding a news conference. Later he is due to return to Israel. Gid'on Kouts reports on the prime minister's speech before the European Parliament.

I believe that there is a chance that peace between Israel and its neighbors is achievable, Yitzhaq Shamir said, but peace will not come before four things take place. First, the Arab side must undergo a real change of heart. Shamir spoke at length about the Arabs' hostile attitude. We have no real proof of any such change, he noted. Second, the Arab governments must categorically express their readiness to hold direct negotiations with Israel on an equal basis in the peace talks. Third, it would be encouraging if there were signs of even a glimmer of democratization in the Arab countries. Fourth, the Arab states must guarantee that the few Jews still living there would be accorded basic human rights. Shamir said he was referring especially to the Jews in Syria and to their right to emigrate.

The prime minister explained Israel's interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242: a withdrawal from territories but not from the territories. If hostile hands were to control the small stretch of land known as the former West Bank of the Jordanian Kingdom, this region would become a launching base for attacks against Israel, Shamir asserted, noting that we could not allow this. Nevertheless, while reiterating Israel's positions on the peace process Shamir admitted that the territorial issue would be the most difficult. Israel is convinced that it has a well-established right to the territories but does not oppose any issue's being raised by the opposite party as long as it is understood that these are negotiations between equal parties. Europe's role will mainly be in securing regional cooperation and assistance in the resettlement of refugees.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 22 October reports that when speaking of territorial withdrawal in Judaea and Samaria, Shamir said that "giving up this territory would be an invitation to war." Later on, the report adds that Shamir "raised the possibility that Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem could receive a passport with dual nationality: Jordanian, Syrian, or Lebanese."]

Rebukes Western PLO Supporters

AU2210175791 Paris AFP in English 1712 GMT 22 Oct 91

[By Oliver Baube]

[Text] Strasbourg, Oct 22 (AFP) - Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir accused Arab leaders Tuesday of showing no interest in peace with Israel, while setting out Israel's terms for the landmark Middle East peace conference to open in Madrid on October 30. He also delivered a strong rebuke to Western countries which supported the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Shamir told the European Parliament that there was "hope for peace" between Israel and its neighbors, but that it would not happen before four developments took place.

"First there must be a change of heart on the Arab side. As yet, we have no concrete evidence of such change. We do not find it in the action of Arab leaders, nor in the Arab media, or among the intellectuals, or on campuses," Shamir said.

The other developments, he said, were for Arab nations to express "unequivocal readiness" to deal with Israel on an equal footing, signs to emerge of the "smallest beginning of democracy" in Arab countries and for them to grant the Jewish minorities who live in their territories basic human rights. "I am referring specifically to Jews of Syria, who are in effect prisoners of the Syrian Government," the prime minister said.

Arab countries had cynically and cruelly exploited the plight of the Palestinian Arabs, Shamir said. "It is an unacceptable situation and it must not continue. But to blame the State of Israel for their suffering is a monstrous inversion of history," he said.

The Israel leader said Arab nations had provoked all the wars in the Middle East, and "it is therefore utterly naive to expect that the nature of the Arab regimes will change, and that all this suffering will end, if only Israel withdraws to the 1967 line," a reference to the borders before the Six Day War.

Shamir accused Arab nations of also creating the PLO, whose raison d'etre "then and now" was to undermine Israel's legitimacy through spreading fear and terror among the Palestinians population.

"It is one of the great tragedies of our time that this organization, whose aims are clearly spelled out in its charter has received recognition, support and help from democracies," the Israel leader said.

Cautioning that there was "no magic formula to real peace and reconciliation," Shamir said all parties in the region were "on the threshold of a renewed attempt to launch a process that would lead to direct negotiations between Israel and his immediate neighbors."

The prime minister said the main elements of Israel's approach would be that talks would have to be bilateral and that the danger of military confrontation would have to be addressed through the reduction and "hopefully" the removal of weapons of mass destruction.

Israel did not object to the question of the occupied territories being raised in talks with Arab nations, he said. "But they should understand that this is a process of negotiations between equals, and that Israel will come to the table with its own position, its own interpretations and its own claims, but with a sincere intention to try to reach an agreement."

"We aim at concluding bilateral peace treaties with the Arab states that will encompass normalization of relations, including mutual diplomatic representation," he said.

Until this was achieved, Israel proposed that both sides undertook not to break off the talks, "that confidence-building measures be adopted, and that mutual cooperation in various spheres be discussed and implemented," Shamir said.

Shamir added that he hoped that a community similar to the European Community would emerge in the Middle East. "I believe that despite all differences between us, we should be able, gradually, to build a united regional community."

Rejects Contact With Advisory Group

TA2210204091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejects the possibility of contact between the Israeli delegation and the Palestinian advisory committee to the Madrid talks. In his Strasbourg news conference, Shamir said that at the Madrid conference Israel will not conduct negotiations according to the formula of territories in exchange for peace.

Shamir—PLO 'Losing Importance'

TA2210195591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yo'av Tocker in Strasbourg, following Shamir's speech to the European Parliament on 22 October—recorded]

[Text] [Tocker] The Europeans see your visit to Strasbourg as some compensation for the frustration they feel in view of the fact that Europe remained outside the peace process.

[Shamir] At most, Europe can play an auxiliary role. In addition, I told the Europeans that if they want to do more they should be more objective and less pro-Arab.

[Tocker] There are many observers in Europe who seized onto remarks you made in Israel on the weekend about the PLO's existence somewhere in the world, and view this as some change in your position on the issue. Is there a basis to this?

[Shamir] No, no. I do not think there is any basis to this. I told my colleagues that I cannot eliminate every PLO existence anywhere in the world. I believe the PLO will die out in due course since it is increasingly losing its importance.

[Tocker] Will the PLO leaders' physical presence in Madrid during the conference complicate the situation for us?

[Shamir] I do not think so. They have no influence. If the Palestinian residents, the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, really want to improve their condition, they should not take into consideration everything 'Arafat and his colleagues do. They should be seeking matters we can agree upon.

Shamir Returns; To Meet Arens, Levi on Talks

TA2310061191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has returned from a one-day visit to Strasbourg. The prime minister landed in Israel around midnight and did not speak to reporters. He had addressed European parliamentarians and participated in a convention of European Jewish leaders. Today, Shamir will meet with Foreign Minister Levi and Defense Minister Arens to formulate Israel's position at the Madrid conference.

Palestinian Delegation, Advisory Council Named

TA2210180191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Report by Udi Segal from National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has already officially publicized the names of the 14-member Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, but opposition to the composition of the delegation seems to be emerging on the part of the Communist Party. The meeting between delegation members and advisory council members at this hotel is over. Most of the representatives have left. Not all 14 delegation members were present. The news conference during which the final list was announced was very short. Faysal al-Husayni made the announcement.

Here is the final composition: The delegation is headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who heads the Red Crescent Association in the Gaza Strip. Also participating are Samir 'Abdallah from Ramallah, who is identified with the communists; Sami al-Kilani, who represents the Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh branch; Ghassan al-Khatib, who is also affiliated with the communists; Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who represents the Christians; Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, the deposed Hebron mayor; Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari from Hebron; Dr. Nabil Qassis from Ramallah; 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad from Gaza; Dr. Zakariya al-Agha from Gaza; Dr. Mamduh al-'Akr from Nabulus; attorney Furayh Abu-Mudayn from Gaza; Samih Kan'an from Nabulus; and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, an Abu-Dis resident. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 22 October quotes reporter Moti Amir as noting that "the list presented by al-Husayni today includes four new names: Samir 'Abdallah and Nabil Qassis from Ramallah; Sa'ib 'Urayqat; and Mamduh al-'Akr from Nabulus"]

Faysal al- Husayni also read out the names of the members of the advisory council which will also be in Madrid but whose members will not be formal delegation members. Faysal al-Husayni will be coordinator; Hanan 'Ashrawi will be spokeswoman; with Dr. Sari Nusaybah and Zuhayrah Kamal as additional members. All four are residents of East Jerusalem. Also participating in the council are Kamil Mansur, a Palestinian journalist and jurist who lives in France; Dr. Rashid al-Khalidi, a Jerusalem-born Palestinian who currently lives in Chicago; and attorney Anis al-Qasim, a jurist who teaches in Amman. The last three represent the Palestinian diaspora.

After reading out the names of the advisory council members, Faysal al-Husayni said this council will be just like any other delegation.

[Begin al-Husayni recording, in English] We are just like any other delegation. In the meantime, in the proper time, when need be, we can change like others. Also....[end recording]

Al-Husayni said they are like any other delegation; at the right time, when necessary, they will be able to change their composition, like others. As for the formal delegation, if more people are needed, al-Husayni said, we will contact the people responsible there; we also have alternatives for additional people.

Despite the formal announcement, as stated above, a problem seems to be arising with the communists. The Communist Party will express its opposition to the composition tomorrow, since this list was not selected by all the various organizations but only by Fatah supporters.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 22 October carried a preliminary report by 'Udi Segal on al-Husayni's news conference. Segal reports that al-Husayni "said that the two delegations would leave for Madrid together. One of the delegations would constitute the official delegation of the representatives from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in accordance with the demands made by the Israeli Government; the second delegation would serve as an advisory council that would convene at a location near the conference."]

Team To Receive Orders 'From Outside'

TA2210184691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During the news conference at the National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem, the head of the delegation, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, made it clear that the Palestinians will be receiving their orders from outside the territories. He did not mention the PLO. Still, he sounded conciliatory:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] We are going to this peace conference with open minds and hearts to participate in making a just and stable peace; that we are going under adverse conditions, under which this conference is convened, only underlines our seriousness about making peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Communists Drop Opposition

TA2310082691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The Palestinian Communist Party has lifted its opposition to the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference and a short while ago canceled the news conference scheduled for this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir was told that Ghassan al-Khatib and Samir 'Abdallah, the representatives of the Palestinian Communist Party, would participate in the delegation to the Madrid conference.

Palestinian List Acceptable 'On the Surface'

TA2310060691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Even after the meeting last night between the Israeli ambassador to Washington and a senior U.S. State Department official, Israel is still unsatisfied with the clarifications it received regarding the status of the various advisers accompanying the Palestinian delegation to Madrid.

Our correspondent in Washington 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Ambassador Shoval was told last night by Dennis Ross, Secretary of State Baker's adviser, that the U.S. Administration's position was that only the members of the Palestinian delegation itself, 14 in number, would have official status at the conference. The United States feels, however, that each delegation can consult with whomever it sees fit.

Israel still fears an ambiguous situation that could permit the PLO, or persons working on the organization's behalf, to play a role in the process. The talks on this matter will continue in Washington today.

This morning a senior Israeli official in Jerusalem, reacting to the list of Palestinian delegates published yesterday, said that, on the surface, the list did not seem problematic for Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports, however, that the security forces will check the security record of several of the delegates appearing on the list.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 23 October in a report by political correspondent Arye Golan adds: "On the surface, the list published yesterday by Faysal al-Husayni is acceptable to us, a senior Israeli official said yesterday, after failing to find any problematic names, except for Samih Kan'an, whose security record will be investigated today by the security forces. Sources in Jerusalem also realize that it is impossible to object to Faysal al-Husayni's presence in Madrid as an adviser, following his meetings with Secretary of State Baker and trips to world capitals." The report continues: "What will count is what happens inside the conference hall, the Jerusalem sources said, not outside it. If the

Palestinian representatives in the joint delegation with Jordan declare that they belong to the PLO, the conference will explode. The Palestinians' behavior is the decisive factor. This morning it appears that if the Israeli delegates do not find themselves sitting down to the negotiations table with people they find unacceptable, nobody will be overly concerned with whom the Palestinian delegates are consulting over the phone."]

No Security Objections

TA2310085391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The defense establishment has no reservations regarding the Palestinian notables chosen as members of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference. This was reported to 'AL HAMISHMAR by official defense sources. This recommendation is based on a comprehensive investigation carried out by the Shin Bet and by the office of Colonel Shalom Harari, the defense establishment's adviser on Arab affairs. The investigation revealed that the defense establishment has no cause to disqualify anyone on Faysal al-Husayni's list. It was also reported that the security services and the Israeli police will take special steps to prevent any attempts to harm the Palestinian delegates or their families.

Shamir Aide on Talks Venue, PLO Participation

TA2310072391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ahime'ir, director general of the prime minister's bureau, by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning to Yosi Ahime'ir, director general of the prime minister's bureau.

[Ahime'ir] Good morning.

[Zohar] Another day has passed. A week from today at around this time we will be very near the start of the conference in Madrid. Israel, however, still has many questions that seem unresolved. First, did we receive clarifications from the United States regarding the Palestinian advisory council? Do those clarifications satisfy Israel, or are certain problems still unresolved, as we heard this morning?

[Ahime'ir] Israel and the United States are still discussing the issue. Ambassador Zalman Shoval yesterday met with Mr. Dennis Ross from the U.S. State Department. We still have many serious questions regarding the Palestinian advisory council.

[Dan] We now hear that the PLO is talking about the possibility of changing delegates during the conference. Are we too preparing for such a development?

[Ahime'ir] We made our position known a long time ago. We said that we would not sit down with PLO representatives or, in other words, with representatives with whom we do not want to sit. That situation could occur at the beginning of the conference or even later, if what you described actually happens.

[Dan] On the other hand, we heard that Shamir said in Strasbourg that Israel would not walk out of the conference if it turned out that the Palestinian representatives were connected to the PLO.

[Ahime'ir] I did not hear that statement.

[Dan] I must admit I read about it in the paper.

[Ahime'ir] I reiterate that we will not sit down with, talk with, or negotiate with representatives linked to the PLO or members of that organization—whether they appear at the beginning of the conference or while it is going on.

[Zohar] The Americans are aware of that and promised us that last Friday. That is how Secretary Baker convinced Shamir to attend the conference. So what actually bothers Israel?

[Ahime'ir] Israel is bothered by all the attempts at underhanded dealing currently taking place, and by all the statements implying that the Palestinian delegation will be acting on orders of parties with whom we do not want to sit down and negotiate. Of course, the first and primary test is who will sit down inside the conference hall and who will be at the site of the conference. It is clear—and this is something the United States has also told us outright in the clearest way possible—that these people, whom we find unacceptable, will not be at the conference.

[Dan] Can you not envision the development of the dynamics of compromise in which once we are already there we will find it awkward to get up and leave because some delegate has been replaced?

[Ahime'ir] I certainly can foresee the possibility that we will get up and leave, because we have declared a long time in advance that we would not sit down with PLO members or with people we found unacceptable—for example, representatives from Jerusalem, who do not represent Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Zohar] What kind of U.S. clarification would satisfy Israel?

[Ahime'ir] The issue is currently under discussion. We want an unequivocal promise that the Palestinian delegation will be within the parameters we agreed upon with the Americans.

[Dan] I would like to hear your reaction to several other statements Shamir made in Strasbourg. I know you were not there, but perhaps you could still comment on some remarks quoted in the newspapers. According to the reports, Shamir said we want to negotiate peace and afterward it will be possible to discuss the issue of the territories.

[Ahime'ir] That is correct. That is not a new position. It is a known Israeli position. We will discuss the future of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—or the future of the Palestinian problem—in two stages, as stipulated by the Camp David accords. In the first stage, we will discuss self-rule and autonomy for a period of between three to five years. At the conclusion of that period, negotiations will begin on the permanent solution. Anyone wanting to discuss the future of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will then be able to do so. That is when the territorial issue will be discussed.

[Zohar] In conclusion, Mr. Ahime'ir, do we yet know if Mr. Shamir is leaving for Madrid?

[Ahime'ir] Not yet. Lengthy consultations will be held this morning between the prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers. All the outstanding issues will be discussed and may even be resolved.

[Dan] One more question: Gay Zohar is leaving for Madrid, and I asked him what kind of suitcase he is packing. He could not tell me because he did not know how long he was going for. Perhaps you know how large a suitcase he should take?

[Ahime'ir] First we have to decide if packing a suitcase will be necessary.

[Dan] You mean whether you personally are going?

[Ahime'ir] No, I am talking about the prime minister's suitcase. The question of who accompanies him is a minor issue. If Shamir decides to go, and his inclination is quite positive at the moment [changes thought].... However, there are still considerations to be made; then a suitcase will be packed to meet all possible needs.

[Zohar] But for how long?

[Dan, laughing] You did not help Gay out.

[Zohar] Is there any estimate of how long the Madrid talks will last? We now hear that there is a proposal that the bilateral talks continue in Washington. The HA'ARETZ headline calls that the U.S. compromise.

[Ahime'ir] We insist that the bilateral negotiations be held in the region. It must be stressed that Israel attaches primary significance to the bilateral talks and less to the Madrid ceremony, which will be only the opening session of the peace conference. The negotiations and the true test of peace are all in the bilateral talks, and part of their importance lies in their being held in the region, alternately in Israel and in each of the Arab countries.

[Zohar] The Syrians categorically oppose that, and a compromise will apparently be in order. The question is whether the Washington compromise sounds reasonable to you?

[Ahime'ir] It is being discussed. I would not like to refer to this or that compromise. We insist that the bilateral talks take part in the region as part of the expression of the readiness for peace, just as we insist that there be a regional conference to discuss all the region's problems. To our regret, the Syrians, as you mentioned, oppose both of those things, and their position does not furnish real evidence of any desire for peace.

[Zohar] Thank you very much, Mr. Ahime'ir, and good morning.

Official on Bilateral Talks, Advisory Committee

TA2210185091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Israel will propose that the bilateral talks will be moved from Madrid to the Middle East immediately after their first session in Madrid. This was disclosed this afternoon by a senior official in Jerusalem, at a briefing for the foreign press. Jack Katzenell reports:

The bilateral talks are due to begin in the Spanish capital on Monday, the 4th of November. This was disclosed by a senior official in Jerusalem, but he added that Israel will propose that only one session be held in Madrid, and then the bilateral talks move immediately to the Middle East. In other words, the talks with Syria would be held alternately in Syria and Israel; the talks with Jordan and the Palestinians in Israel and Jordan; and the talks with Lebanon in Israel and Lebanon. Such an arrangement would constitute recognition by these countries of Israel's right to exist, the official said. Syria has already rejected the idea of holding the bilateral talks in the Middle East.

The official was asked about Israel's attitude to the Palestinians' advisory committee which contains known PLO figures, East Jerusalem residents, and Palestinians from the diaspora. He replied that Israel understands from its contacts with the U.S. Administration that no invitation will be issued to the Palestinian advisory committee. On the other hand, there would be contacts between that committee and the U.S. Administration. He admitted that Israel was not happy about the situation and was still discussing with the United States.

Arens Views Nuclear Issue, Iraq Overflight

TA2210155791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The defense minister says that the details publicized in Seymour Hersh's book, *The Samson Option,* are not true. Minister Arens says he did not read the book, but everything publicized so far is untrue. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Minister Arens made this comment to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, in response to a query by Knesset Members Yosi Sarid and Sara Doron. He added that Israel joined an agreement which bans passing missile technology to countries that do not possess such know-how, and it will honor this agreement.

The defense minister again mentioned the U.S. protest against the aerial sortie said to have taken place over Iraq. According to Arens, the protest was strong and discourteous, and the United States said it was expecting an explanation by Israel. The defense minister reemphasized that responsibility for Israel's security lies with the government, which will do everything necessary to guarantee this security.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 22 October also quotes the defense minister as saying that "Israel will have to decide which measures to adopt in order to guarantee the safety of our forces [in South Lebanon]." Also, "Hizballah has lately been encouraged by Iran, which is trying to torpedo the peace conference." Arens added that "following the terrorist attack on soldiers at the pickup point at Tel Hashomer junction [on 11 October], he checked and found it impossible to demand the death penalty in cases when a murder is perpetrated with cold steel weapons. To rectify this missing link in the law he raised in the government his bill on death penalty legislation. The world will not view these terrorists as freedom fighters, nor will they become martyrs after their death." According to Arens, "the possibility of the death penalty should exist, and there could be situations when the prosecution will demand this capital punishment."]

Four New Settlements Planned for Golan Heights

TA2210201291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Internal documents of the Construction and Housing Ministry indicate that the ministry intends to build four new settlements in the Golan Heights and to add 1,414 housing units to the existing settlements and moshavim. A senior ministry source told our correspondent, Nitzan Hen, that preparing the ground for the hundreds of housing units will begin in the coming days. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent notes that for fear that the Golan Heights will be subject to negotiations in the Madrid conference, the construction and housing minister decided to embrace a comprehensive construction plan proposed recently by the Golan regional council so as to increase the Golan population by 50 percent. In reaction, it was announced by the Construction and Housing Ministry that construction in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el will continue according to the government's policy.

Ministry Finances Security of Homes in Old City

TA2210053391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The Housing Ministry has been financing security of Jewish buildings in the Muslim and Christian quarters of Jerusalem's Old City for the last six months. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that the security measures cost the ministry about 100,000 shekels a month. A ministry spokesman commented that the arrangement has the approval of the Treasury and the government.

Immigrant Settlement in Territories Detailed

TA1810090691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by Natan Ro'i]

[Text] A World Zionist Organization document notes that new immigrants are being whisked from Ben-Gurion Airport to new settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Since January 1989, when the wave of immigration began, 3,103 new immigrants have reached the territories, while since 1 April 1991, 816 have come to the territories. Jerusalem absorbed 15,544 new immigrants, 4,845 of them since 1 April 1991.

An investigation conducted by the Finance Ministry shows that 1.1 percent of the new Soviet immigrants wish to reside beyond the Green Line. Most of them, or more than 46 percent, prefer to live in the central region; 32 percent go to the north. Upper Nazareth's population grew by the largest proportion—27 percent. Some 12 percent of the new immigrants move to Jerusalem, while only 7.8 percent choose to live in the south.

As for the territories, most of the new immigrants prefer urban settlements: 854 new immigrants live in Ari'el, of whom 218 have arrived since 1 April 1991.

Some 473 new immigrants have come to Ma'ale Adumim, 154 of them since 1 April 1991. Qiryat Arba' is home to 285 new immigrants, of whom 92 arrived since 1 April 1991.

Jerusalem Mayor on Silwan Settlement

TA2210190591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek met this afternoon with Attorney General Yosef Harish to present his stand on the move by Jewish settlers into Silwan. Kollek had asked Harish to allow him a voice on the matter before delivering an opinion on the settlement. In a letter to Harish, Kollek wrote that Jerusalem's even-handed policies regarding different sectors of its population had maintained a measure of normalcy. The issue of settlers in Silwan, wrote Kollek, is not a matter of legal right to ownership, but a question of the wisdom of maintaining coexistence, order, and public peace.

The attorney general assured Mayor Kollek he would fully consider the position.

Lubrani: Efforts on Securing Release of Navigator

TA2210124591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Oct 91 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] "Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has still not replied to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's appeal to search in the al-Sultan Ya'qub area for Israeli MIA's Zahariya Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz," HA'ARETZ was told by Uri Lubrani. Lubrani is the head of the negotiating team on the MIA's and POW's and the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, who left for Washington last night.

Lubrani said that Israel does not have any information about the al-Sultan Ya'qub MIA's and that the defense establishment is putting all its efforts into collecting information about them. He said we are in the midst of the negotiations, which led to Israel receiving the information that Yosef Fink is no longer alive. Most of the effort is concentrated on securing the release of navigator Ron Arad.

In reply to a question whether Israel would permit a Red Cross visit to Shaykh 'Ubayd, in jail since his abduction two and a half years ago, Lubrani said: "Certainly not." [passage omitted]

Labor Paper on 'Palestinian Self-Determination'

TA2310064691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Ten members of the Labor Party have put out a strongly dovish document on how to proceed in the peace talks. It also calls for a change in the party's attitude to a host of internal issues. Details from Tzvi Pantanowitz:

The group of ten includes most of the well-known names of the dovish wing of the party. Former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman; Arye Eli'av, the former secretary general; 'Uzi Bar'am, another secretary general of the party; and from the so-called Beilin faction, Yosi Beilin, who for years has had Shim'on Peres' ear; Hayim Ramon, the party's chief whip; and Nisim Zvili, a dovish member from the farming sector, who ran Labor's last elections campaign.

The doves call for the right of Palestinian self-determination in the political section of their paper. On negotiations with Syria, the group states that Israel's security interest should be maintained by a series of arrangements, which will mean territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. If there is no progress toward peace, Israel should take unilateral measures, the first of which would be a statement to the UN on the intention to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. Israel would also gradually divest itself of what the paper calls: the mutual dependence between Israel and the territories.

On social issues, the Labor group is for a national health service law; state pensions; and an overhaul for the Histadrut labor federation that has been talked about for a long time. The Internationale, the anthem of the workers, must go; so must the red flag, anathema today in the post-Soviet revolution world.

What the party leadership will say about all this and whether this is enough to turn Labor's image around for the elections are unanswered questions at this early stage.

Likud Aide Condemns Labor Document

TA2310081691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Sara Doron, the chairwoman of the coalition executive, condemned the document published by the Labor Party doves that contained far-reaching concessions. She said the publication of the document one week before the opening of the peace conference undermines the government's decisions and weakens its positions. She called the document a cut-rate price list for the territories of Eretz Yisra'el. MK Doron claimed that this proves that the Labor Party conference is more important to the Labor doves than the peace conference. [passage omitted]

Ministry Team Prepares Papers on Security Issues

TA2210130091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Oct 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Senior defense sources told 'AL HAMISHMAR that the defense establishment has set up a special working team to prepare Israel's position papers on security issues prior to the conference. Defense Minister Moshe Arens appointed his adviser, Sali Meridor, as coordinator of the team, and he is being assisted by senior officers from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence and Planning Branches. Dr. Hanan Alon, head of the Defense Ministry foreign relations department is taking an active part in the discussions.

The team is operating through subteams dealing with target areas such as: Lebanon and the security zone, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, etc.

Senior Defense Ministry sources reported that in the contacts which preceded the issue of invitations to the conference, the various issues on the agenda were discussed in detail, and the defense establishment is now working on Israel's positions and the details of each of the issues that might crop up at the conference.

No Casualties as Bomb Explodes in South Lebanon

TA2210152791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Another bomb was activated against an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit in the eastern sector of south Lebanon this afternoon. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Official military sources told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that the bomb blew up near the site where an IDF soldier was slightly wounded this morning. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in an announcement publicized in Beirut, Hizballah assumed responsibility for the two terrorist acts. According to Beirut radio stations, IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery shelled Hizballah strongholds in the area in retaliation.

The defense minister said today that Hizballah operates with absolute freedom in southern Lebanon, and the Lebanese Army does not challenge it, apparently under Syrian instructions.

Shamir Aide on Capture of Jihad Squad in Egypt

TA1910125391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Yig'al Karmon, the prime minister's antiterrorism adviser, disclosed that about a month ago a squad of Islamic Jihad members—whose center is in Damascus—was captured in Egypt. The squad had been dispatched to Egypt to carry out attacks, including one on a U.S. vessel in the Suez Canal. Yig'al Karmon believes that terrorist organizations, including Fatah, will increase their terrorist missions in view of the progress made in the peace process. Palestinian terrorist organizations and Muslim fundamentalists are meeting today in Tehran, and the prime minister's adviser expects the conference to discuss new terrorist acts against a whole host of targets, not only Israeli.

Palestinians Strike 23 Oct Against Conference

TA2310095291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] A general strike is in force today throughout most of the towns in Judaea and Samaria. The strike was initiated by the Palestinian organizations that oppose the Madrid conference.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the strike is only being partially observed in the Gaza Strip. The organizations that called the strike—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Hawatimah faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—forcibly closed shops and markets in several locations.

Capital Punishment Bill for 'Terrorists' Proposed

TA1610174491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens presented to the cabinet a draft law that will establish the death penalty for terrorists responsible for a cruel act that results in death. The defense minister wants the cabinet to present the Knesset with an amendment in accordance with the 1945 Emergency Regulations.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe points out that according to the current law, a military court is entitled to hand down the death sentence only to terrorists who kill with live ammunition.

Cabinet Passes Draft Bill

TA2210100491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The cabinet has passed the draft amendment to the 1945 Emergency Regulations, which would allow the application of capital punishment in cases of lethal terrorist attacks, to the Ministerial Committee on Legislation for expeditious handling.

According to the draft presented by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, the military courts will be able to try and sentence to death anyone who murders by stabbing or by running someone over with a vehicle. [passage omitted]

Arens Delaying IDF Appointments Following Leak

TA2010115391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Oct 91 p A10

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Ten days ago, Defense Minister Moshe Arens canceled a discussion at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff of the appointment of three senior officers because he was upset that the officers' names were published in the newspapers even before the appointment were discussed. The minister is holding up the appointments for the time being, although it is believed in the IDF that he will eventually approve them, at the chief of staff's recommendation.

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq recommended that Brigadier General Shalom Ben-Moshe, chief military police officer, be appointed chief education officer to replace Brigadier General Ehud Gross, who is retiring. The chief of staff also recommended that Brigadier General Doron Tamir be appointed chief intelligence officer, to replace Brigadier General Oren Shahor, who will be given a new IDF assignment. The third appointment is a new chief military police officer.

Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq was also very angry at the leak. A senior IDF source told HA'ARETZ: "We have learned a lesson; there will be no more leaks from appointment sessions. When the chief of staff decides to appoint a certain officer to a certain post, he will do it, and only after the defense minister approves it will the media be notified."

A HA'ARETZ correspondent notes that an appointment session is held in the IDF every Monday and many officers attend the meeting. It has now been decided to cut the number of participants.

It was also reported that Lieutenant Colonel Margalit Tirosh will be appointed head of the Air Force Enlisted Persons Branch, and will be promoted to brigadier general. She will be the first woman ever to wear that rank in the Air Force.

Official on Possibility of Ties With PRC

TA1710170991 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Interview with Moshe Yegar, Foreign Ministry deputy director general for Africa, Asia, and Oceania, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpts] [Margalit] Here in the studio with us is Moshe Yegar, a Foreign Ministry deputy director general, who recently returned from a visit to China where he and David Afeq [head of the Foreign Ministry Political Research Center] probed the possibility of developing ties with this huge country. Good evening, Mr. Yegar.

[Yegar] Good evening.

[Margalit] What are the chances of resuming diplomatic ties with China?

[Yegar] With the Chinese, it is hard to tell, because one hears no definite statements from them. We can only try to analyze their processes and moves. As for the timing—by the way, they constantly use this term in talks—there is no way we can tell when they will decide to establish full diplomatic ties.

[Margalit] Have they made any promises on this subject?

[Yegar] The words they use are: We are making progress in the right direction; there is a positive inclination. The term a right direction means that diplomatic relations are the goal. We have actually heard this expression. As for the date, it will be decided in the future. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] In your talks there, did you discuss the reports—I am not certain about their veracity—that the PRC is a destructive, negative factor in the Middle East, at least where their plans to sell missiles to Arab countries are concerned?

[Yegar] It was mentioned implicitly, and they denied the reports. We settled for their denial, and we hope they understood our interest in the issue and our desire to believe that the reports are untrue. [passage omitted]

Government Company Coordinates Trade

TA2110145191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 21 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by 'Edna Iss]

[Text] Israel maintains trade ties with the PRC via a company whose main offices are in Hong Kong, but which opened a branch in the PRC itself. This branch is close to the Israeli academic center and opened in September 1990. The company's Israeli offices are in Tel Aviv.

The company, called Copco [name as published], is owned equally by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, and Industry and Trade. Until his resignation, former Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav headed the company, and its director general was 'Amos Yudan. During the Gulf war, Copco moved its offices from Mainland China to Hong Kong, but it has since resumed operations in Shanghai.

Copco will not release information on the scope of its activities in the PRC or disclose the identity of the companies it represents there. Nonetheless, it has been established that the company has to date helped many Israeli organizations do business in the PRC. Among the companies that have done business in the PRC are "Dan Irrigators," which sold the Chinese a production line to the tune of $1 million; " 'Ogenplast," which sells the PRC plastic sheets for grain storage; "Elscint"; "Scitex"; "ECI Telecom" [name as published]; "Cyclone Aviation Products"; "Mali" [name as published], which manufactures industrial lasers; and agro-food companies, including dozens of kibbutz factories.

Copco helps Israelis participate in exhibitions in China, such as "Agro-Export China" last year and an electronics and agricultural exhibition this year, and also helps cut commercial deals, such as the one recently signed between the PRC and Israeli Veterinarian Institutes. The company has lately begun preparing for the possibility that diplomatic relations between the PRC and Israel will be announced, a move that would lead to a substantial increase in economic relations.

The Kur concern also runs a company, "Asterco" [name as published], that trades with the PRC and that has offices in Hong Kong and on mainland China.

Trade With PRC, Vietnam Develops

TA1610201591 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 16 Oct 91 p 6

[By Hayim Fikarsh]

[Text] A significant and encouraging breakthrough in trade with Asian markets, including the PRC and Japan, was noted recently. One of the countries that has currently shown interest in joining that market is Vietnam.

This was reported yesterday by the heads of the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce in a meeting with reporters in Tel Aviv.

The speakers, among them Chairman Avraham Balas, Executive Member Betzal'el Bligh, and Hilel Neuman of the Kibbutz Industry Association, said that seven years ago, when the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce first began its operations, trade with Asian countries amounted to $780 million. Today, however, it amounts to $3 billion and is growing.

Among the leading trade partners are the PRC, Japan, India, [South] Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Burma, Nepal, the Philippines, and others, including countries that have not yet established diplomatic relations with Israel.

The speakers added that an Israeli delegation will go to India to discuss closer trade relations after the special convention on trade between Israel and Asian countries at the Tel Aviv Moriah Hotel. Meanwhile, work is under way to set up additional chambers of commerce similar to those already operating in some countries. In reply to a question, it was reported that Vietnam is ready to purchase from Israel basic commodities, receive assistance in public building activity as part of the country's general rehabilitation project, and purchase modern agricultural equipment. In return, Vietnam is ready to export to Israel large quantities of superior quality rice.

"One can notice a marked change in our activity in the PRC as well," the speakers noted, qualifying their statement by adding that at this point, however, it is too early to detail these moves, even though there is hope that we will soon hear about a breakthrough in this area as well.

PRC Preference in Coal Purchase Urged

TA2010160791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Oct 91 p 12

[Report by Arye Avneri]

[Text] Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, told Tzvi Tzafriri, chairman of the National Coal Supply Cooperation [NCSC], that the PRC should be given preference on the list of new countries Israel is going to purchase coal from next year to supply the Israel Electric Cooperation's new power station in the south.

Israel's annual coal consumption totals no more than five tonnes. Israel has only purchased coal in the United States, Australia, and Guatemala until now. The option of buying coal in additional countries, including the PRC, the Soviet Union, and Poland had recently been examined. Contacts have been held with the relevant government authorities in this countries for this purpose.

The NCSC chairman recently visited the PRC. Several days ago he recommended that Minister Ne'eman give preference to the PRC and his recommendation was accepted by the minister.

Hungarian Industry Minister Bod Continues Visit

Meets Deputy Prime Minister Nisim

LD2010112191 Budapest MTI in English 2011 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem, October 17 (MTI)—Hungarian Minister of Industry and Trade Peter Akos Bod opened talks in Jerusalem on Thursday.

Bod, who arrived for a six-day official visit to Israel on Wednesday evening, met with Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Nisim, minister of trade and industry. Talks focussed on the capital investment opportunities in Hungary.

The Hungarian minister visited the "Technology '91" exhibition in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is to receive Minister Bod on Friday.

Meets Shamir

LD2010112591 Budapest MTI in English 1546 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem, October 18 (MTI)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met Hungarian Minister of Industry and Trade Peter Akos Bod today. During the meeting, Shamir pointed out that the Hungarian economy is considered to be most eligible to advancement in the east-central European region, and Hungary stands a good chance of joining the Common Market.

Minister Bod pointed out the reliance of the Hungarian economy on Israeli capital in its development. He also said that the two countries' relations could benefit the whole region.

As part of the Thursday programme of the Hungarian trade and tourist delegation, Judit Toth of the National Tourism Office signed a memorandum, on behalf of the minister, to develop bilateral tourism. The document provides for creating tourist offices in the two countries. The measure might be carried out at the level of representations early next year, Bod told MTI.

Visiting Serbian Minister Calls for More Aid

TA1810200691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Oct 91 p 23

[Interview with Serbian Industry Minister Doshko Matkovitch [name and title as published] by Pazit Rabina, in Israel "this week"]

[Text] [Rabina] Serbian Industry Minister Doshko Matkovitch quietly, almost secretly, visited Israel this week.

Matkovitch, 35, is not the typical Western minister and certainly does not belong to the accepted age group of cabinet ministers in Israel. Matkovitch knew exactly what he was looking for in Israel: economic and technological cooperation as well as political and moral support for Serbia. The first part is clear and understandable. The second issue is problematic. In Yugoslavia's current state of civil war, overt support for Serbia could cause more than an eyebrow to be raised by the EC countries.

But things seem quite clear to Matkovitch. Moral and political support, as far as he is concerned, is perfectly understandable against the background of 20th century history.

In an interview with him this week, he said: "Today, a fascist regime, with fascist roots, is developing in Croatia. The Croatians today want a state similar to the independent fascist state they established 50 years ago, a country that cooperated with the Nazis and brought disaster to the Serbian people. We refuse to accept this."

[Rabina] The Croatian-Fascist element is known to all; however, it seems that the current problems stem from border disputes.

[Matkovitch] We recognize the right of self-determination and are willing to hold negotiations with Croatia. As far as we are concerned Croatia can secede, but not with its present borders. The Serbian minority living in Croatia is not willing to live in a country along the lines of a Nazi Croatia.

[Rabina] Is it not difficult to believe in the results of the negotiations? So far neither side has shown any flexibility. They are still trying to dictate facts through military force at this stage.

[Matkovitch] If the negotiations fail to achieve any results, it will only be the Croatians' fault. They have no persuasive arguments to justify their policy. By the way, the first clause in the Yugoslav Constitution defines Serbia as the country of all the peoples who reside in its territory. To the Croatians on the other hand, Croatia is the state of the Croatians. Therefore, our claim is also logical according to their constitution.

[Rabina] What aid do you expect from us in arms?

[Matkovitch] The problem is not weapons. We expect from you political support and economic cooperation. We are convinced that the State of Israel is bitter about past experience. We believe justice is understood here and therefore we will be helped.

[Rabina] What do you expect in more concrete terms?

[Matkovitch] We expect support in the international community from Israel to help bring the truth to light. Until today we were convinced that the situation is understood; now we see that we were wrong. We must do something to bring in journalists and show them the real situation. The Croatian government presented acts of cruelty and claimed that the Serbs were responsible. When we investigated the opposite was found to be true. The bodies could not be identified, but one body was identified by a Serbian father who recognized the tattoo on his son's hand. It was an artificial terror, broadcast by German television, which blamed us. The opposite was true.

[Rabina] Can anybody claim a monopoly on the truth, especially in a region full of tension and ethno-historical and religious disputes like the Balkans?

[Matkovitch] Yes, our truth is complicated, but in fact also very simple. It must be known close up. You must have heard about the destruction of the presidential palace in Zagreb. The Serbs were blamed, but the truth is that there was no air attack. It was staged. When bombs fall chandeliers do not come off in one piece. You must understand that Croatia prepared itself for years for the secession, build up arms and exploited Yugoslavia's installations. For instance, the Yugoslav information center in Zagreb has become a center which serves them and their propaganda.

[Rabina] Up to several months ago everybody was convinced that the heart of the Yugoslav problem was the Albanian demand for an independent Kosovo province; now the situation has changed.

[Matkovitch] The problem is the same with one main difference: In Croatia, the problem is the future of the Serbian minority. In Kosovo, the problem is the future of Kosovo. One must understand, Kosovo is an inseparable part of Serbia, it is the heart of our culture. The Serbian state was set up and fell in Kosovo. What Jerusalem is for you, Kosovo is for us.

[Rabina] You say the main problem is the Serbian minority in Croatia. Why not have a voluntary transfer and solved the problem? The land is not holy to you.

[Matkovitch] That possibility has not occurred to us. If the people agree, then perhaps, but only on a voluntary basis. The solution is to create a new federation with Croatia, which includes separate federal units of the Serbian minority.

[Rabina] Croatia is not your only problem. Bosnia-Herzegovina also contains Serbs and they are on the way to independence. There is also a dual front there: ethnic and religious-Muslim. Even in Croatia, there is a dual ethnic religious-Catholic front. The EC does not have sympathy for you; what chance to you have of reaching a solution?

[Matkovitch] It is true that we have a certain problem with the Muslims, but it is not the main issue at present. Historically, since the 14th century, Serbia has been Europe's first defense against the Islamic invasion, but at the moment we have a bigger problem with the Catholics, who have a negative influence in Croatia. In reference to the EC, some countries understand us better and some less. Our understanding with France is relatively good, but the German and Austrian stands, which have known historical roots, is disturbing.

I do not want to expand on this issue, but since the unification of Germany a new entity has been created in Europe, large and powerful, which now has interests in Europe, interests which did not exist before. It is an ongoing process and I do not want to rush to conclusions, but European states should recall history.

[Rabina] What is your forecast for the coming months?

[Matkovitch] We can hold out for a long time in my view. With the right moves we can also reach a solution within two to three months. If the present situation continues Croatia will not stand firm for longer than several weeks. The EC must act through The Hague Conference, but not through ultimatums or economic boycotts. We must concentrate on solving the problem of the Serbian-Croatian minority. That is the heart of the problem.

Businessman Discusses Visit to USSR

*TA1610191091 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
16 Oct 91 p 7*

[Report by Pazit Ravina; all Soviet personal and organization names as published]

[Text] Dov Lautman, president of the Industrialists Association, held a news conference yesterday upon his return from a tour of the USSR. He presented an agreement on industrial cooperation and mutual assistance with the League of Economic and Scientific Associations in the Soviet Union. The agreement was signed by Arkadiy Volskiy, the head of the USSR Economic Committee, which was established after the August coup and which includes Prime Minister Ivan Silayev and economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, the father of the "Grand Bargain" program.

The Israeli delegation conferred with Silayev; Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Economic Committee for Foreign Trade, who visited Israel last month; and with Yeltsin's popular deputy, General Aleksandr Rutskoy.

Lautman said that the problems involved in doing business with the USSR are very complicated, but that a sophisticated approach could expose tiny and profitable niches.

"The chief importance of the current contacts," he said, "lies in the establishment personal ties and in the ability to conduct field studies. Once the propitious conditions for economic activity are created, it will be possible to go forward efficiently and intelligently. [no end quote marks as published]

In the wake of the talks it was decided to submit to the Soviets a document examining the possibility of setting up a farm in the USSR. An experimental area for agriculture will be prepared with Israeli help, and an experimental system of the Israeli ice cream industry will also be established.

It was decided to devise a plan to instruct Soviet bank directors and to look into the possibilities of cooperation in the development of packaging plants in the USSR. The Soviet Union loses vast quantities of crops each year due to packaging and crop delivery problems.

Lautman said that the Soviets were amazingly free in opening wide the gates of factories of their military industry. They showed 30 military projects that they plan to convert into civilian production, including a proposed microwave oven plant.

The parallel Soviet cooperation options are limited mainly to barter deals for raw materials for Israeli industry.

Palestinian Members of Delegation Due on 25 Oct

JN2210174091 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The Palestinian delegation slated to join the peace conference set for Madrid at the end of the month arrives in Amman on Friday. The delegation is to meet with its Jordanian counterpart before they proceed to the Spanish capital. Jordanian sources are quoted by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY as saying expert-level talks between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will be held in Amman today to coordinate moves before the conference. [passage omitted]

'Differences' Remain Over Palestinian List

JN2210080791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Oct 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is expected to arrive here Friday from the Israeli-occupied territories for coordination with the Jordanian government prior to the convening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid at the end of this month.

"The delegates are due here on Friday for coordination and the joint team will leave for Madrid from Amman on October 29," said Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, who is expected to be on the Palestinian delegation, before going back to the West Bank on Monday.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is not allowed by the U.S. and Israel to play a direct role in the peace talks, will remain the party that carry out political coordination with Jordan, Palestinian officials noted. Therefore, a high-level PLO team will also be present in Amman next week to work out final details on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian strategy at the peace talks and mechanism of the joint negotiating team, the officials added.

The main basis of coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians has been already agreed upon at a round of important talks between His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday. Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri on Sunday also met with Dr. al-Khatib and Ms. Zahirah Kamal, a Palestinian woman leader who is also expected to be on the Palestinian team.

Jordanian and Palestinian sources later said that some of the details of the mechanism of the joint delegation has already been agreed upon by the two leaderships.

According to Dr. al-Khatib, Jordan will lead the delegation at the opening session, while the two sides will alternate in heading the team in accordance with the issue discussed. "When the Jordanian disputes with Israel are negotiated Jordan will lead the team, when the Palestinian issues are discussed the Palestinians will lead the team," Dr. al-Khatib said.

Jordan has repeatedly said it will leave it to the Palestinian team to negotiate Palestinian issues with the Israelis. A 71-year old physician and veteran political activist from Gaza, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, has been appointed head of the Palestinian team.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi commands broad respect among all of the Palestinian trends including the groups which oppose the Palestinian participation at the peace conference.

"Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi represents Palestinian national consensus," said Dr. al-Khatib.

But according to well-informed Palestinian sources, there are still differences among the various groups over the final list of Palestinian delegates.

The sources said that the present structure of the delegation bypasses and overshadows the role of the grassroot organisations and activists in favour of traditionalists.

A Palestinian source close to the PLO said that while 14 names will be announced only seven will play the prominent role. "Most of the seven do not represent the intifada leadership; while those who represent the intifada spirit will mostly be on the alternate lists," said the source.

There are no reported objections, however, to Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi who has been outspoken throughout the intifada.

The final list will be announced on Wednesday and Thursday. It will include representatives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip excluding Eastern Jerusalem—as stipulated by the U.S. and Israel.

But representatives of Palestinians in the diaspora will play an indirect role in a steering committee and the various technical committees. Jordan and the PLO have agreed that East Jerusalemites will be represented in the Jordanian side as members of the Jordanian delegation and/or advisory committees.

Dr. al-Khatib said Monday: "The delay in the announcement of the list is due to two factors. The first is that there is an agreement among all parties involved on the timing of the release of the names of the delegations. Secondly, that there has been no final (Palestinian) agreement on the list."

Dr. al-Khatib said that the Palestinians are seriously discussing the composition and the mechansim of the working of the Palestinian delegation. "The Palestinian performance at the conference will largely depend on these two elements," he said.

So far the PLO and the Palestinian leadership in the territories have agreed to set up a steering committee and a leading committee.

The steering committee, which will be based in the same city of the negotiations but not in the conference hall, reportedly constitutes Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sari Nusaybah, (from inside the occupied territories), and Dr. Rashid al-Khalidi, a prominent Palestinian academic, Anis al-Qasim, a legal expert who had lived in Kuwait, and Kamil Mansur, a researcher and writer—representing Palestinians in the diaspora.

A Palestinian official said Monday that Mr. Kamil might replace Dr. Nusaybah on the steering committee, which is believed to act the coordinator between the PLO and Palestinian delegation.

Dr. al-Khatib said that the leading committee will constitute of some members of the steering committee, the delegation, including Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, and "other Palestinian experts."

"The leading committee is the core of the whole operation," Dr. al-Khatib explained.

Dr. al-Khatib said that he has very limited expectations from the conference. "We have had to accept such conditions," he said.

In an interview with Agence France Presse, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed the same pessimistic view: "I support our leadership's decision (to take part in the peace conference)... even though I am fully convinced that we are taking part within a very negative context... within a framework that meets the Israeli demands."

But Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi went on to say that negative terms should not "prevent the Palestinians from pressing for our national rights and demanding the world to recognise our right to self-determination."

Dr. al-Khatib said that the Palestinian delegation will seek to constantly focus on the intifada. "The intifada should remain our focus of attention," he stressed.

Foreign Minister To Attend Five-Way Meeting 23 Oct

JN2210181591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir will leave for Damascus tomorrow to take part in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states bordering Israel. The minister told our correspondent for political affairs Salim 'Ali Dhiyab that he received an invitation today to take part in this meeting from his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'

The foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the PLO will take part in the meeting. The meeting aims to coordinate Arab positions in the peace conference which will be held at the end of October in Madrid.

Meeting 'Positive Step'

JN2310081291 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Oct 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Damascus Meeting Is a Step in the Right Direction"]

[Text] No doubt, the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries bordering Israel in Damascus is a right step toward the desired coordination.

Because the battle for peace must be waged by the Arabs directly involved in the settlement side by side and on firm common ground, this positive step was necessary.

The battle calls for a unified Arab position and one Arab language proceeding from the Arab constants and international legitimacy.

Jordan has long called for serious and responsible coordination among the Arab countries bordering Israel, stressing the need for overcoming or suspending disputes and disagreements with a view toward achieving a true understanding to serve national and pan-Arab causes and the higher interests of the Arab and Islamic nation.

Understanding and coordination among the Arab countries bordering Israel would spare the Arabs and Palestinians the problem of signing partial or separate deals with the enemy, and help them evade pressures and extortion, which no party alone may be able to stand.

The Damascus five-way meeting today ushers in a new stage characterized by true solidarity—a stage where the Arabs will wage the battle for peace with united resources and energies, and with common cards and principles that should be adhered to throughout the long journey of the tough and difficult negotiations with the Israeli enemy.

We hope that the Damascus foreign ministers meeting will be followed by an urgent summit meeting to crown this positive Arab move with fruitful results in the interests of all.

It should be noted that coordination among the Arab countries bordering Israel must seriously be consolidated and backed by all other Arab countries, in the East and West.

The battle for peace waged by the Arab countries bordering Israel and the Palestinians is the battle of all the Arabs, without exception.

Government Agrees To Attend Peace Conference

NC2210220291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The cabinet meeting which opened at 2115 today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister 'Umar Karami in the presence of 20 ministers ended a short while ago. The Lebanese Government announced after the meeting that it agrees to attend the international peace conference. Here is a recording of the statement which was read by the prime minister after the cabinet meeting:

[Begin recording] [Karami] The Council of Ministers held a meeting to adopt the suitable decision on the invitation to the peace process. After an intensified discussion, the council decided to entrust the secretary general of the foreign minister with the task of conveying the Lebanese Government's reply to the peace conference invitation.

The invitation [as heard] was accompanied by a message from the Lebanese Government concerning [word indistinct] its stands on the U.S. letter of assurances, which was received with the invitation to the peace conference. The Council of Ministers also discussed the agenda and adopted the suitable decisions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Has the Lebanese delegation to the peace conference been formed?

[Karami] The delegation has been formed from ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry. The foreign minister has been requested to suggest the names (?and submit them to) the Council of Ministers for approval.

[Indistinct question by unidentified correspondent]

[Karami] You know that nine ministers currently are outside Lebanon. Therefore, it is very hard to secure the quorum. That is why we took all this time until we completed all the work in that meeting. [end recording]

This was a dispatch from the government house [words indistinct].

Al-Hirawi Demands Israeli Withdrawal From South

NC2210103691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi announced in an interview with Radio London that Lebanon is preparing two letters: one responding to the peace conference invitation, the second answering U.S. assurances and promises about which, he says, we have reservations to be told to the American side before Wednesday.

President al-Hirawi demanded Israel withdraw to internationally recognized borders, especially since Lebanon now has a strong central government and army, and has promised not to attack the borders from inside Lebanese territories after withdrawal. Lebanon has around 500,000 Palestinians, living there since 1948, and its area cannot absorb this number. The president affirmed that settling these people in Lebanon is out of the question.

Karami—Israel To Blame if Conference Fails

NC2210200991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami represented President Ilyas al-Hirawi today at the opening of the second session of the permanent bureau of the Arab Lawyers Union at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut. He said: We stand now at a serious and historic juncture that will determine the course of our nation and future generations. He added: We are interested in the peace conference. If it turns out to be a just one, we will have contributed to its success. If it stumbles, we will not be the cause of its failure. Israel will be responsible for that before history and the international community.

10 Israelis Said Killed in New Operation

NC2210125991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1241 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Our newsdesk has just reported the following: An Islamic Resistance source announced a short time ago that at 1330 local time today, the Martyr Khalil Murad group detonated an explosive device in the al-Qantarah-al-Tayyibah area, killing 10 members of the Zionist enemy and injuring others. We will supply more details as they become available.

Israeli Forces Advance

NC2310091091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0830 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] AFP cited security sources that a Zionist mechanized force of 50 troops has advanced 1 and ½ km into the occupied security strip and took up positions on Jabal al-Dahr ridges overlooking Western al-Biqa'. An Islamic Resistance official said that resistance fighters have been placed on maximum alert to confront any possible Zionist aggression.

Hizballah on Maximum Alert

NC2310115691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] REUTER has cited southern security sources that a force of 40 Israeli soldiers and one South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier backed by three tanks and two armored personnel carriers advanced today about 2 km outside the security zone toward resistance areas. The Israelis and their allies took up positions in a mountainous area overlooking Hizballah bases, whose fighters are on maximum alert for Israeli military activity.

REUTER cited eyewitness reports that Hizballah has concentrated heavy artillery in the hills south and west of the cities of Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah. The Israeli Air Force today flew sorties over the south for the third straight day.

These developments took place as a fundamentalist group announced that this morning they detonated an explosive charge on the al-Rayhan road while an SLA military vehicle passed, killing three and destroying the vehicle. The announcement said that 10 minutes after the first explosion, a second explosive device was detonated under an SLA vehicle, injuring six SLA soldiers and destroying the vehicle.

Palestinians Congratulate Hizballah

NC2310084391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] A delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command headed by Abu-Rushdi has visited the Hizballah Political Bureau to congratulate them on the courageous operations carried out by the mujahidin of the Islamic resistance and to condemn the Zionist shelling of Jibshit and other confrontation villages. Political Bureau head Haj Husayn al-Khalil and Abu-Muhammad Hudrush received the delegation.

Ghanim Salih, a member of the Fatah-the Revolutionary Council Central Committee, visited the office for the same reason.

During the two meetings, the delegations reviewed yesterday's events against the Zionist enemy and confirmed the need to increase resistance operations to confront the challenges. The most dangerous of these challenges is the American conference for settlement, the objective of which is to entrench the Zionist enemy's existence as the status quo.

'Arafat Says No PLO Forces 'Currently' in South

NC2310074191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Paris at the (Marinee) Palace yesterday. 'Arafat said the meeting was part of his tour of Jordan, Syria, and Egypt during which he wants to exchange views before the Madrid peace conference opens. 'Arafat noted that the meeting was also held to further coordinate the Arab stand for working out a just and comprehensive peace.

'Arafat was asked if he has promised not to carry out military operations from southern Lebanon, to which he responded: We currently have no forces in southern Lebanon.

Tension in Ba'labakk After Internecine Fighting

NC2210183891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] AFP has reported that tension still prevails in the city of Ba'labakk in the wake of the clashes which took place yesterday between the Midlij and Ja'far clans. The agency said the members of the Ja'far family who escaped from Ba'labakk yesterday started to bring reinforcements to the areas surrounding the city and to adjacent villages this morning.

Sources have reported that Hizballah did not release the 41 members of the Ja'far family it had kidnapped yesterday. Hizballah also has kidnapped 10 people belonging to other families, according to the same sources.

Hizballah Denies Connection With Hostage-Takers

NC2110205991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi has declared that he has no connection at all with the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine or other organizations that take hostages. He asserted that Hizballah has never held hostages.

He added that the issue of hostages will be resolved when Israel releases the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian POW's it is holding. He added that Hizballah has nothing to say about the Israeli soldiers about whom Israel is asking for information.

Al-Hirawi Pays Official Visit to France

WA2210150391

For Beirut and Paris reportage on the visit by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to France, including reports on his talks with French President Mitterrand and his promise to the local Lebanese community of free elections in Lebanon, please see the France section of the 21 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Egyptian, Jordanian, PLO Ministers Arrive 23 Oct

JN2310110491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Damascus at 1000 today to participate in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab frontline states. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and the PLO representative.

In a statement to SANA, Musa said: Our meeting in Damascus is aimed at laying down the important foundations of the entire peace process. We will discuss the situation in all its aspects out of our belief in the peace process and the importance of achieving a lasting peace based on international legitimacy, UN Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian people's firm right to self-determination, and the principle of land for peace.

In another statement to SANA, Qaddumi expressed optimism about the meeting, which embodies the inclinations of the Arab League toward coordination and consultations among the Arab brothers during the peace process and the Madrid conference. Our meeting in Damascus, he added, will draw up unified conceptions about the Arab position, in all its details, so that this position may serve Arab interests, the main pan-Arab issue, and world peace in general.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir also arrived in Damascus this morning. He was received by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

'Unified Arab Stand' Seen As Essential

JN2110160491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since the declaration that 30 October will be the date of the international conference for peace in the Middle East and that the Spanish capital, Madrid, will be the venue of this conference, the world capitals have been voicing satisfaction with and optimism about the conference's ability to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region and to help the Middle East move to an era of security and stability, so that the region would be able to contribute to human civilization and entrench the bases of world peace.

Having paved every way for the international mediation to enable it to surmount all obstacles and overcome all barriers which faced it, we did not try to hide our welcome and optimism about the progress achieved by the international efforts toward peace, stemming from our belief that peace, eventually, is more precious than all minor considerations through which the Zionist enemy is trying to kill the hope for peace halfway.

Since Secretary Baker and his Soviet counterpart, Pankin, announced the call for the conference last Friday, only Israel was eager to exclude itself from wave of satisfaction and optimism, declaring through some of its political figures that this peace conference will lead to a war, and that a conference setting as one of its objectives Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories will collapse in its early days. Tel Aviv will not go to the conference to give back territory to the Arabs or to halt the building of settlements on Arab territory. This is because the only peace formula Israel knows is one compatible with its ambitions and a formula whereby occupation is considered legitimate and aggression a law which should be acknowledged by all nations as Israel's right. In brief, that means that despite its agreement to participate in the peace conference, Israel's words and deeds today affirm that it is prepared to undermine and booby-trap the conference more than being prepared for constructive contributions to it and for pushing it to the threshold of success.

We Arabs do not know how the Israeli rulers can possibly perceive a peace in the region not depending on withdrawal from the occupied territories, the implementation of UN resolutions, and the restoration of the wasted Arab rights. We do not know how the Tel Aviv rulers can imagine that we are going to the peace conference to sign the writ relinquishing our territory, rights, and destiny to Zionist ambition and the brainless Zionist lust for invasion and aggression. However, irrespective of the overt and covert Israeli stand, we all are called upon to work hard for peace through a unified and clear Arab stand that stems from the Arab nation's aspirations for liberation and progress and agrees with the international community's desire to achieve peace based on justice and the exposure of Israel's true nature before the entire international community as a state based on aggression, a state that nothing fits its existence and survival but the continuation of aggression.

All that is taking place among the Arabs now, and among the states directly invloved in the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular, is a sincere effort to effect a unified Arab stand, which we now need more than ever before. It is through such a stand that we can win the wagering and emerge from the peace battle victorious, faithful to the Arabs' major cause, and eager to protect our nation's rights against dissipation.

Afghanistan

Paktia Governor Killed By Enemy Fire

LD2210163791 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] With sorrow we received a report that Mohammad Anwar Hasel, governor of Paktia and head of the Paktia Provincial Council of the Homeland Party, was injured and later martyred yesterday evening by shrapnel from rockets fired by extremists while he was visiting frontline positions of the defenders of Paktia Province. We belong to God and return to him. [last sentence in Arabic]

The BIA [BAKHTIAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that Esteemed Najibollah, President of Afghanistan, took part today in the funeral ceremony of martyred Mohammad Anwar Hasel. He was buried today in Martyrs' Cemetery in Kabul with special military ceremonies after his funeral prayers were said in Idgah Mosque this morning. 'Abdorrahim Hatef, 'Abdol Hamid Muhtat, and General Mohammad Rafi, vice presidents; Farid Ahmad Mazdak and Engineer Nazar Mohammad, vice presidents and members of the executive board of the Central Council of the Homeland Party; 'Abdol Karim Shadan, supreme justice of the Republic of Afghanistan; deputy prime ministers; a number of ministers; a number of Armed Forces generals and senior officers; a number of social and political organizations' officials; and relatives and friends of the late governor participated. In the ceremony Qari Forqani spoke briefly and then Farid Mazdak spoke about the work and efforts of the deceased for ensuring peace and security and neutralizing the aliens' offensive on Gardeyz, the interference of foreigners, and described his death as an irreparable loss asking God to rest his soul in peace and to grant perseverance to his family and relatives. Then his brief biography was read by 'Abdol Samad Qayumi, head of the Regional Organs Administration of the Council of Ministers. Following that a member of his family expressed gratitude for the care and commiseration of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and personally of Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan.

According to another report under a decree of esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, martyr Mohammad Anwar Hasel, son of 'Abdollah, was granted posthumously the rank of major general in recognition of his active participation in the discharge of military duties for the defence of the country and the people and ensuring national reconciliation in the country; and to respect his merited and valuable service.

Iran

Mohtashemi—U.S. 'Objectives' Must Be Targeted

LD2210105191 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—The Muslim Students Association of Tehran University on Monday protested against the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace conference to be convened in Madrid October 30.

Addressing their gathering at the university mosque, Majles Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said that elimination of Palestine is the prime goal of the Madrid conference. Therefore, he added, it is necessary to target all the U.S. objectives throughout the world. He said anyone and any government intending to attend the Madrid confab would be considered a traitor against the Muslim nations and the free world.

Mohtashemi also termed as a big plot the European countries move to open the borders to allow Jews to migrate to Israel and said the U.S. wants to uproot Islam. Mohtashemi added if the U.S. truely supports peace it should give the Palestinian people the right to determine their own fate and government.

He was also confident that other Islamic countries would be targetted after destruction of Palestine.

Referring to the ongoing international conference to support the Islamic revolution of Palestine in Tehran, he said more than 300 journalists are here to cover the event but the world mass media, in line with the schemes of the world arrogance, has boycotted the news of the conference.

A nine-point resolution was adopted at the end of the rally which stressed the need for continuing struggle of the world Muslims against the U.S. and the Zionists. A number of Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian and other Muslim personalities here for the Tehran conference, took part in the rally.

In related news, the Islamic center of university students and staff following the imam's line, in a message addressed to the Tehran conference Monday, expressed hope that it would take firm and revolutionary steps towards the annihilation of the Zionist regime and for the liberation of Palestine.

Nuclear Cooperation With China Denied

LD2210142991 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 22, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Tuesday denied rumours about Iran's atomic cooperation with China.

A statement released by the Iranian Embassy here today stressed that Iran advocates nuclear disarmament at the international level. It said, however, that the United States insists on the nuclear disarmament of South Asia solely because of its own selfish interests. The Madras-based English daily HINDU said in a report Monday that Iran is building a nuclear reactor with the cooperation of China.

Mohajerani Demands Nuclear Capacity for Muslims

LD2310105391 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Deputy President 'Atalollah Mohajerani said that if the Zionist regime should be allowed to remain as a nuclear power all Muslim countries will be entitled to the same privileges.

The decision on whether this or that nation should have nuclear power, he made it clear, does not rest with the United Nations or with any of its subsidiary agencies.

In an interview which appeared in the Persian daily ABRAR today, Mohajerani dwelt on the dangers to global peace if Israel is allowed to remain nuclear, and insisted "because the enemy has nuclear facilities the Muslim states, too, should be equipped with same capacity. We witnessed the destruction of Iraq's nuclear devices... He also warned of the tacit understanding between India and the illegal Zionist entity against the nuclear facilities of Muslim states, especially Pakistan.

"India and Israel have established contacts for destroying Pakistan's atomic centers. Sometime ago they wanted to use a Sri Lankan air base to destroy the nuclear centers in Pakistan. This implies that Israel has already felt the threats, and that it wants to have the upper hand in its dealing with the Muslim states," he disclosed.

Mohajerani called the nuclear device one form of maintaining a superiority, and said: "Therefore Muslims should strive to go ahead, which I hope they will. I am not talking only about one Muslim country, but rather the entirety of the Muslim states. Israel should be totally deprived of its nuclear capacity. I mean what has been done to Iraq in respect of its nuclear capacity should be done exactly to Israel. In other words the atomic capacity of Muslims and Israel should be at par. If Israel should be allowed to have nuclear power then, Muslim states, too, should be allowed to have same. That is not the business of the United Nations or of the Security Council or of the investigating committee to decide... You know the you-are-welcome language is no language with which to address an enemy."

On the international conference on the rights of Palestinians which ended work in Tehran last night, the deputy president said the arrogant powers were scheming to present Palestine as a "long-since finished issue. We are witnessing circumstances at which they are trying to justify the occupation of Palestine."

The Americans are trying to omit even any mention of Palestine, he noted and recalled that sometime ago in Geneva the then Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh had told PLO's Yaser 'Arafat that the issue of Jerusalem was already finished, and he went on to repeat the same statement in his meeting with American Secretary of State James Baker in Cairo.

"As I see it the Americans, the Israelites and a group of Arabs calling themselves the pragmatists mean to suggest that there is no way for solving the issue of Palestine other than by recognizing the illegal state of Israel," regretted the Iranian official.

"The Tehran conference offers all Palestinians as well as all Muslim peoples who share the same view to get together. But in the long run the Muslims should be able to offer a counterbalance against Israel in default of which they will be unable to do as they should do.

"We must be hopeful that in the long run Palestine will be free, perhaps (God forbid) it may take another 100 years. The important thing for us is to find the devices for securing the liberation of Palestine. The tools and the devices are as important as the path to be taken," said Mohajerani.

The 4-day conference which brought government officials, parties and revolutionary figures from 60 countries including Palestinian leaders opposed to the sell-out of their rights as planned by the U.S. in Madrid, Spain, next week, ended on a note of success last night.

Among other issues, it debated the setting up of a fund to finance the intifadah in Palestine and the formation of an united Islamic army to liberate the first qiblah of Islam. The 28 point declaration ruled out any compromise with the Zionist enemy.

On the hostile propaganda of the West against the Tehran gathering Mohajerani said: "The propaganda of the westerners against the Palestine conference is worth pondering on. The CNN (Cable News Network of America) report for example, which I happened to see today shows only a part of the conference hall at which several seats are empty because at that moment most of the delegates sitting in that particular row were outside in the lobby. Immediately after, CNN has filmed queues of people in Tehran occasionally showing few exhausted faces to suggest that the public is fed up."

While at the same, he said the conference was well attended by parliamentary delegations, including four of five of the leading officials of the parliaments in Algeria, Libya, and others. Even the chairman of the Palestine National Conference was in Tehran for this conference, in addition to 100 journalists and ministers from some countries.

"The Western Media brings up the topic of human rights in Iran in the hope that it will outshine the conference. It is unfortunate that even our own news networks are in the hands of such news agencies, which means we have to turn to those same news agencies when we want news about events elsewhere in the world," concluded the deputy president.

Referendum, Building of 'Islamic Army' Urged

LD2210112791 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Two morning dailies Tuesday castigated the so-called U.S.-engineered peace conference, scheduled for Madrid later this month, as "a great treason against Islam and Muslim ummah [community]."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial stressed however that such a treason was not committed by Arab people or the Muslim world but as a result of "the spirit of humiliation of certain corrupt regimes."

The article recommended that a referendum could clarify all vague points in this connection, adding that it should be conducted by the nations and not the governments. In order to avoid any distortion in the result of the referendum, the daily noted, it would be better to conduct it under the supervision of Muslim ulema.

It also called for practical measures to be taken for the enrolment of Muslim people in an "Islamic army" and said that Muslim people would enthusiastically welcome such a move. It concluded by underlining that "the cancerous tumor of Zionism should be eradicated" from the surface of the region and the Islamic world through gallant uprising of committed Muslim forces.

Commenting on the same subject, the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES said that ever since the triumph of the Islamic revolution, Iran has tried to place the issue of Palestine at the top of the agenda by convening seminars and conferences.

Tehran's latest effort in this connection, added the article, is the holding of an international conference "with the aim of exploring ways of practically supporting the 4-year Palestinian intifadah to liberate the country."

It expressed hope that over 400 guests of the Tehran conference could inject renewed commitment from their governments when they return to their homelands and bring some resolve for the world's most abandoned people to be given their basic rights.

'Extraordinary' Student Activities Surveyed

NC2310112491 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Oct 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "A Word With the Students"]

[Text] Some extraordinary activities are being seen in student circles. The students, a holy and respectful strata who will one day run society, have the right to think about their fate and events in society, to state their views, and to play an effective role. No one can oppose this natural right or ban students from healthy political activities. Tackling political and social issues is part of reaching maturity in society and the students who will become the country's leaders should apply this right more than anyone else.

In the years following the revolution's victory student thinking flourished, and they regained the position granted by his eminence the imam. They could show their ability to advance objectives and fulfill revolution hopes, shown by Muslim and revolutionary students after the revolution's victory proved Muslim students' considerable role in its success.

The revolution is still beginning and needs everyone's support and devotion, including the students'. More important is the need to be alert and aware to avoid the traps set by revolution enemies.

Student incidents started with a sensitive move, a change of principal at the Martyr Beheshti Medical Sciences School. Students have a right to state their views on sensitive appointments and dismissals. University and Supreme Cultural Revolution Council officials are duty-bound to answer the students' protests and questions, acceptable and logical in all student affairs. Student indifference and Supreme Cultural Revolution Council failure to answer student protests are unacceptable.

Political objectives outside student affairs and which do not conform to students' logical demands are being pursued, so devoted and protesting youth need to be alert and aware of the political pests out to threaten their holy objectives. By resorting to the leader's directives they can differentiate good from bad.

His eminence asked students protesting the change of principal at the university not to create the kind of tension which leads to unrest but some are moving against the directive. Devoted and alert students must follow their leader's directive to logic and avoid suspicious paths. This is the only way to tread the path of revolution.

* Commentary on Danger of U.S. Access to Bubiyan

92AS0116A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 2 Oct 91 pp 1, 15

[Text] The access of the United States to Bubiyan Island will, of course, not mark the end of the White House scenario of dominating the Persian Gulf region. For years, Washington has organized all anti-Iranian actions from a distance, and now, its holding of a "trump card" in the Persian Gulf crisis will change the manifestation of its position with regard to Iran. This means that all the leverage of the United States against Iran must be reevaluated under circumstances quite different from those of the past. As a result of the common borders created with Iran from this main base of conspiracy, domestic foreign agents, border crisis centers, economic needs and .... will be exploited in new ways. Under such circumstances, the efforts of the implementors of the foreign policy to attain a joint security plan with the

Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and making it appear successful is doubly painful.

The foreign policy of Iran, with its strong reaction to the granting of Bubiyan Island to Iraq during the war, despite the stationing of the source of global aggression, that is, the United States, has begun to soften and, in ignoring the dangers resulting from the presence of the uninvited guest in the region, seeks national security and the security of the Persian Gulf in cooperation with these sheiks. After the passage of 13 years of revolutionary life, which with the support of the people was able to create an astonishing change, if we are unable to make our own so-called intellectuals believe domestically that we are able to continue our political life without reliance on foreigners, how could we have the ability to persuade the Arab sheiks to stand up to preserve independence?

On the other hand, in the economic area, the fact that the influence of foreigners on this country has weakened is directly related to the overall efforts of all sympathetic strata of the society. Unfortunately, the actions of some of the officials have diverted such support from the efforts needed at this juncture. Despite the fact that this danger was pointed out by the Leader of the revolution to the executive officials, unfortunately, we continue to witness the same trend, with few exceptions.

[An example is] the minister who signs a 250-million toman contract to change the office decorations in his ministry and, following the warning of the Leader, is not only not questioned about it, but is allowed to present distorted reports to make his actions appear appropriate.

Is liberating the country from the leverage of the pressure of the enemy possible by building up appearances?

When in regards to a steel complex (mining, smelting and casting, and rolling) only casting equipment is made ready, and yet the propaganda portrays it as the operation of a large, vital, needed project in the country, what do we in fact gain?

To confront the enemy who is now lingering next to the borders of our country, while preserving our principles more than ever, we need sincere executives who are truthful with the people.

* Ministry on Trial of Director of Khorasan Paper

92AS0116B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 9 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Tehran—9 Mehr, 1 October. **The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, and the Special Court of Clergy published separate communiques about the summons and trial of the director of KHORASAN newspaper.**

The text of the communique of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is as follows:

Following the publication of an article in issue No. 12180 of KHORASAN newspaper in the city of Mashhad, dated 03/06/70 [25 September 1991], which resulted in the summoning of the director of that newspaper by the Special Court of Clergy of Tehran on Saturday, 6 Mehr [28 September], this court was held in a closed session, without the invitation or presence of the jury or the press.

In accordance with its duty and the rule of law, the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance calls the attention of the honorable officials of the regime, experts, press officials and the Muslim people of the country to the following.

1. Article 168 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran states explicitly:

"Examining political and press offenses shall be open and must take place in the presence of a jury."

Article 34 of the press law ratified by the Majles declares:

"Offenses committed by the press shall be investigated in the proper courts in the presence of a jury."

Articles 23-34 of the above-mentioned law have determined the press offenses and how they should be dealt with precisely.

2. In the 21/05/1370 [12 August 1991] joint session of the officials of the judicial branch and the Ministry of IslamicCulture and Guidance, which was held in order to "examine the procedures for offenses committed by the press," it was emphasized that considering the explicit content of the Constitution and the press law, these crimes must be investigated in the proper courts in the presence of a jury.

3. In accordance with Article 31 of the press law ratified by the Revolution Council, members of the jury of the court for investigating press crimes were determined, and on 2 Mehr [24 September] of this year, the names of 14 primary and substitute members were announced through the media.

Considering the above-mentioned statements, the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance requests that the honorable members of the judiciary, in accordance with their responsibilities in regards to implementing justice and protecting the rights of every citizen in the country, take the necessary steps to comply with the law in the investigation of press accusations and crimes, especially as regards the openness of the courts and the presence of a jury in the trial. Undoubtedly, lack of attention to the Constitution and other laws will result in despair and stagnation in the society, will prepare the grounds for the elimination of the job, political and social security of the people, because of which our Islamic revolutionary society will face problems, particularly in the area of cultural and intellectual activities.

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, 08/07/1370 [30 September 1991]

The Special Court of Clergy also issued a communique as follows:

Recently, following the steps taken by the Special Court of Clergy in regards to the accusations, there were statements and reactions by some of the clerics against this judicial authority in some newspapers and circles. Because the creation of such an atmosphere by the accused and their relatives is not unprecedented and the procedure of this court so far has been to maintain dignity, avoid political disputes and protect the dignity of these individuals, it has remained silent with regard to such statements. But, unfortunately, on 08/07/1370 [30 September 1991], the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance repeated the same statements in an official communique. Hence, in order to alleviate doubt and clarify the issue for the public, the following is announced to the Hezbollah nation:

1. Considering the importance of the sacred institution of the clergy and its place in the Islamic regime and in order to maintain its well-being, in accordance with the decree of the Imam in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], the Special Court of Clergy began its work. Since then, it has taken effective steps in regards to expelling the improper elements from the society of the clerics, punishing the corrupt pseudo-clerics and fighting against the conspiracies of the deviants and those who sell their religion for the world, including decisive action against the deviant gang of Mehdi Hashemi.

2. The basis of the legitimacy of this judicial authority is the decree of the Imam and Velayat-e Faqih in accordance with Articles 4 and 57 of the Constitution. The bylaws for investigation by the court were also based on the sacred Islamic religious laws and the instructions and directives issued by the Imam and the grand Leader.

3. This judicial complex has proved in practice in the past that it has not been under the influence of factions or ignorant of the climate created by political currents or relatives of the accused, and that it has acted on its religious and legal duty to defend the regime of the Islamic Republic and the dignity of the clerics, in the course of Velayat-e Faqih.

4. Considering the above, the Special Court of the Clergy is competent to investigate any sort of violation by the clerics, including their press violations and crimes. In regards to the manner of investigation, concerning the selection of attorneys, the jury and the like, it follows its special regulations and is not bound by the laws governing other courts.

5. The Special Court since its establishment has acted in accordance with the above method and has not made any changes in its methods of investigating violations. The recent ruckus seems suspicious, politically motivated and indicative of the anxiety of some accused individuals in regards to the future actions of this judicial authority. Otherwise, would it not have been better for such individuals or circles, instead of creating a climate, to ask for clarification of the points of ambiguity from the proper authority?

6. The Special Court of Clergy will, by the grace of God, deal decisively with violators and deviants at any level. Hence, that group of the media and circles who have in recent days taken steps to publish such irresponsible and false matters should stand warned that lies, slander, distortion and creating conflict are considered crimes according to religious law and can be prosecuted.

Special Court of Clergy

* Director of Pasteur Institute Named

92AS0116D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 28 Aug 91 p 11

[Text] **The new director of the Pasteur Institute of Iran was appointed.**

In a decree issued by Dr. Reza Malekzadeh, the minister of health, treatment and medical education, Dr. Mohammad Reza Zali, the deputy minister of research of that ministry, was appointed director of the Pasteur Institute of Iran while retaining his current position.

* Asadabad Satellite Station Becomes Operational

92AS0116E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 11 Sep 91 p 10

[Text] **Hamadan, KEYHAN correspondent: 10 Shahrivar, 1 September. With the efforts of Iranian experts, the Martyr Qandi satellite station of Hamadan became operational.**

On the last day of government week, with the efforts of domestic experts, the Asadabad Martyr Qandi land satellite station, which had suffered 80 percent damage during the imposed war, once again became operational at several times its previous capacity.

The cost of the implementation of this project was 12.1 billion rials.

This satellite has 3 communications antennas which establish telephone communications between Iran and 25 other countries of the world.

Also, the third digital "S.T.D." center of the country, at a cost of 20 billion rials, became operational. This center, after Tehran and Semnan, is the third center to be installed and put into operation by domestic experts. This center at the present time covers the Province of Hamadan and in the next phase will serve Bakhtaran, Kurdistan, Ilam and Central Province. With the operation of this center, the code for Hamadan and the nine affiliated cities of this province was changed to 081.

Also, the fifth 5,000-telephone center of Hamadan, at a cost of 6 billion rials, was inaugurated and became operational. With the addition of these 5,000 telephones, the total number of telephones in the city of Hamadan reached 26,000.

* Managing Director of NIGC Named

92AS0116C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 4 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] In a decree issued by Qolam Reza Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, Mr. 'Ali Hashemi was appointed and began his duties as the managing director of the National Iranian Liquid Gas Company [NIGC].

* Volume of Non-Oil Exports Down, Value Up

92AS0116F London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Sep 91 p 10

[Text] While in the first four months of this year (1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]), the weight of goods entering the Customs of the Islamic Republic from various areas of the world has increased by 27 percent compared to a similar period last year, the non-oil exports of Iran to other countries in the period in question, compared to the first four months of the previous year, decreased by 11 percent. The Customs of the Islamic Republic published a report on its operations in the first four months of this year and announced that the value of the non-oil exports of Iran in the period in question increased by 92 percent compared to the previous year. In its reports, the Customs of the Islamic Republic pointed out that in the first 4 months of this year, 8,439,639 tons of goods entered the major customs points of the country, 10,915,045 tons of goods were loaded, and 9,518,000 tons at a value of 645,104,000,000 rials were released. The customs spokesman also announced that the weight of goods entering compared to a similar period in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] increased by about 27 percent, and the goods released increased by 29.5 percent in weight and 62.9 percent in value compared to the previous year. The public relations office of the Customs of the Islamic Republic announced that the inventory of goods in the customs of the country at the end of the 4 months was 2,594,278 tons, and the customs of Bandar 'Abbas and Bandar Khomeyni have had the major share in weight of released goods, respectively.

The public relations office of the Customs of the Islamic Republic announced in regards to nonoil exports that in the first 4 months of this year, 887,651 tons of goods at a value of 41,545,878 rials were exported. This amount, compared to a similar period in 1369 [1990-91], shows a decrease of about 11 percent. On the other hand, the nonoil exports of Iran in the first four months of this year, compared to a similar period in 1369 [1990-91], show an increase of 92 percent.

The Customs of the Islamic Republic also announced that the Customs of Bandar 'Abbas, Bandar Khomeyni, Bushehr and Urumia had the major share of exports to foreign countries, respectively, in terms of weight. The public relations office of the above-mentioned agency announced in regards to the number of imported cars that in the first 4 months of this year, 2,197 sedans with the specifications of the international transit permit book and temporary permits were imported and 1,621 cars with the above-mentioned specifications left the country. The Customs of the Islamic Republic announced that its cash revenues in the first 4 months of this year were 154,296,716,000 rials.

Pakistan

Sharif in Jeddah for Talks With Saudi King

BK2210160391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was accorded an enthusiastic welcome when he arrived in Jeddah from Harare this afternoon on a special invitation from Saudi King Fahd. He was received at the airport by the deputy governor of the holy city of Mecca, Prince (Sa'ud Bin 'Abd al-Mohsin Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz), and senior civil and military officials. Pakistan's Ambassador Mohammad Waliullah Khan Khaishgi and the staff members of the Pakistani mission were present on the occasion. The invitation to visit Saudi Arabia was extended to Mohammad Nawaz Sharif when he had a meeting with the Saudi ruler in Jeddah on 14 October while on his way to Harare to attend the Commonwealth heads of government summit there. The Saudi ruler had asked Nawaz Sharif to meet him on his return from Harare.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent Tanvir Siddiqi reports from Jeddah that the prime minister is scheduled to meet the Saudi king today. He will perform a minor pilgrimage tonight and go to the holy city of Medina tomorrow where he will pay a visit to the mausoleum of the holy prophet, may the blessing and mercy of God be upon him, and perform prayers at the mosque of the holy prophet, and then depart for home in the afternoon.

The prime minister is accompanied by his adviser for establishment affairs, Mohammad Asad Khan Junejo; and minister of state for foreign affairs, Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo.

Earlier, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met Zimbabwe President Mugabe in Harare and invited him to visit Pakistan. Accepting the invitation, the Zimbabwean president expressed the hope that he will be able to visit Pakistan very soon. He said his country is thankful to

Pakistan for the services its air force contingent is rendering to help Zimbabwe's Air Force.

PRC's Yang Shangkun To Visit 26 Oct

BK2310050691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] It has been officially announced in Islamabad that Chinese President Yang Shangkun's visit to Pakistan beginning Saturday [26 October] will open up new vistas of bilateral cooperation and promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two friendly countries. This will be the first visit by President Yang Shangkun to Pakistan. The Chinese president will be accompanied by a 33-member delegation, including Vice Premier Wu Xueqian, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Yang Fuchang, Vice Minister for Overseas Economic Relations and Trade Wang Wendong, and other senior officials. Their visit highlights the importance of the existing deep ties between Pakistan and China. It also assumes significance in the backdrop of the rapid changes that are taking place in the world.

Editorial Sees India-U.S. 'New Romance'

BK2010130891 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Oct 91 p 6

[Editorial: "India's New Romance"]

[Text] Two of the longest flirtations of modern times have just about ended in rather infelicitous manner as all hypocritical affairs must. The United States has abandoned Pakistan, leaving it with a tainted past and without a word about alimony or maintenance. India has jilted the Soviet Union to fall flat in the embrace of Uncle Sam, supremely unconcerned with the fact that the Soviet Union was never so friendless and forlorn. Authorities in Washington and New Delhi are leaking out details of what is to be a cheek by jowl intimacy in military and civil fields, but insist they are not going to be explicit about it just yet. One official in the U.S. capital has been candid enough to say that the two are not going to fall into bed right now, but he didn't deny that the preliminaries are very much on. Isn't that saying quite enough?

India had started turning a new chapter while the later Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was at the helm. Quite possibly, it had sensed early enough that all was not well with U.S.-Pakistan union, and began to plan cashing in on the impending rupture. The events in the Soviet Union did not occasion this new development. They only hastened it. From the details divulged so far, it is evident that the shape of the U.S.-India equation is going to be wide-ranging, with the accent most probably on military cooperation and coordination. India is to receive the status and treatment due to the sixth power, that is, after the big five.

For Pakistan, there is much food for thought in this development. It is not only the loss of an ally or patron but the prospect of a friend joining hands with a neighbour with an inconsistent if not unreliable record. If the United States' commitment to a peaceful and war-free 21st century is sincere, its expanded relations and reinforced presence in our neighbourhood need not cause deterioration in the environment of our region. It could be a moderating factor and produce a wholesome climate. What prompts India to take a U-turn which makes it look so obviously opportunistic, has still to be seen. And we have to be watchful without being panicky.

Sense of 'Insecurity' Perceived

BK2210101891 Lahore THE NATION in English 22 Oct 91 pp 1, 12

[Text] Muzaffarabad—Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Prime Minister, said here on Monday that the increase in India-U.S. defence cooperation has enhanced the sense of insecurity among the smaller states of the region.

In a statement issued here, Sardar Qayyum said: "India is a negative power and its intentions of assuming the role of colonializing the quite obvious." [sentence as published]

India, he said, extended defence cooperation with the Soviet Union only to terrorize the smaller states of the region.

"The growing cooperation of India with Iraq in view of its rapidly increasing military and nuclear capability, could also pose a serious threat to the oil-producing Muslim states," he said.

He said, the increasing naval power of India can become a serious threat even to the United States in the times to come.

He said if India is being supported by the West to corner the Islamic World then it could have serious repercussions and could destroy the existing international system.

In wake of growing cooperation between India and the United States, the Islamic countries could always incline towards China. This, he said, should be kept in mind by the American policymakers.

He said: "Unless all the issues between India and Pakistan including that of Kashmir, are not resolved the one-sided American aid to India could increase the chances of a war in the region."

In another statement, he stressed the need to strengthen Muslim conference on both the sides of the ceasefire line so as to intensify the on-going Kashmir Liberation Movement.

Briefing the Cabinet members in detail about the Liberation Movement, he said the Indian forces getting demoralised and the freedom-fighters were achieving remarkable victories.

Criticising the Indian government for adopting a dual policy, he said on one hand, it was trying to deceit the Kashmiris through the negotiations with Pakistan and on the other was actively busy in military preparations.

Sardar Qayyum said the meeting of Kashmir Liberation Alliance would be convened shortly in which the latest situation of Kashmir liberation would be discussed in detail.

He observed that the anti-Islamic forces were conspiring to create anarchy and chaos in the AJK adding that unity was the only force through which such heinous designs of the enemies could be foiled.